DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 1 Section 1 April 1,1925

GRAIN AND THE RAILROADS

A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that L.F.Loree, president of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company, asserted in his annual report to stockholders March 31 that only returning prosperity, brought about largely through the great increase in the value of the country's grain crops, saved the railroads last year from having their economic problems turned into political issues. Mr. Loree expressed the fear that political dangers had not been altogether removed from the railroad outlook.

DICKINSON SEEKS FARMER SUPPORT

The press to-day says: "Farm legislation designed to aid in the development of cooperative marketing and the disposition of surplus agricultural products will be placed before the American Council of Agriculture, in Chicago, April 4, by Representative L. J. Dickinson of Iowa, head of the House farm bloc...The conviction was expressed by Mr. Dickinson yesterday that influential farm organizations of the country would mass behind his plan in preference to that of the administration, for the reason, he said, that his scheme abandoned the idea of licensing cooperative associations while the other program made this a requisite. Another feature of his legislation which he said would carry a distinct appeal was the combination of cooperative marketing and the control of exports in one bill....."

GERMAN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION TO VISIT AMERICA

An Associated Press dispatch from Berlin to-day states that an official German agricultural commission, the first to travel abroad since the World War, will leave Bremen April 2 for a six months' study of the progress made in American agriculture during the last ten years. The members of the commission, which was appointed by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and by farmers' organizations, are Dr. Theodor Brinkmann, professor of farm economics of Bonn University; Dr. George Kuehne, expert on agricultural machinery of Munich University; Dr. Theodor Roemer, professor of selective plant breeding of Halle University, and Joachim Deiche, a large farm owner and former director of the livestock breeding department of the German Chamber of Agriculture. The report states that Dr. Fred Hagedorn, Undersecretary of Agriculture, will accompany the commission to introduce the members to the proper authorities in Washington, and will himself make a study of American agricultural economics and finance.

"The fundamental idea underlying the appointment of the official agricultural delegation to tour America was recognition of the fact that for the last ten years our scientific agriculturists have not been able to go abroad," a spokesman for the German Ministry of Agriculture said March 31, according to the dispatch. "We know that during this period American has made tremendous strides, and therefore we have designated four of the best-known German authorities in their special fields to carry out the investigations. They will study not only farming and planting methods, selective plant breeding, livestock breeding, dairying and scientific feeding, but also such branches of agriculture as crop transport, farm machinery and farm management and administration." None of the members of the German commission has ever visited the United States.

Section 2

Armour and Company Report

A Chicago dispatch to the press of March 31 states that the annual report of the directors of Armour & Co., made March 30 by F. Edson White, president, showed that the company's sales for the last calendar year totaled over $800,000,000. Net profits were $18,309,738 against $13,772,026 for 1923.

Conservation and the Government

An editorial in New York Commercial for March 31 says: "The decision of west coast lumbermen to reforest the ground from which they have taken the fir and redwood comes as something of a surprise to the public. The various State and National Governments, while devoting themselves assiduously to a consideration of many unimportant things and measures, have not as yet enunciated an intelligent forestry policy. It does not now appear that putting the woods back on the hills and mountains from which they have been wastefully--and many times wantonly--taken, will become a great State or national issue for many years. And yet it is true that among the very great economic issues that confront the country, that of reforestation is one of the biggest. Some people believe that it is the biggest. The private interests of the country have ever been ahead of the Government in matters of conservation. The Federal Government has been notoriously backward in this regard. This charge lies with equal force against State Governments. Stream pollution has been and is yet commonly practiced throughout the United States. It is only in recent years that steps have been taken--tardy and halting steps at that--to stop this evil. Wild game has been annihilated in many localities because of the negligence and indifference of State and National Governments. The very oldest living things in the world--the great giant trees of California--would have been cut down long ago had not the National Geographic Society--a private organization--furnished the money necessary for their purchase and sequestration as a park. The Government would do nothing in that direction. The migrating wild fowl--peculiarly a national asset--would soon have disappeared had not sportsmen besieged the Government for years, until, at last, it haltingly took measures to save the birds from extinction. The very last bison of the herds composed of millions that once roamed the western plains would have been slaughtered had it not been for the work of private individuals who took up the labor of conservation that properly belonged to the Government. One of the ironical exhibits in this matter of the bison is the fine herd of several hundred animals in Yellowstone Park, carefully guarded there by the Government's keepers. It had its beginning in a shipment of several bison as a gift to the Government from the privately owned and conducted Bronx Zoological Park in New York City. The antelope are almost gone, and if they are ever saved from extinction the work must be undertaken by private individuals, although the Government is now making some feeble efforts to stock various national parks with the only species of antelope ever found on this continent. Only a few of the most outstanding instances of Government failure in the work of conservation have been noted. They are legion, and embrace both flora and fauna. Of course, a government merely reflects the people it represents. It is needless to recount its many failures in this regard. The few cited should serve to impress upon the thoughtful the knowledge that while there will probably always be much discussion about 'preserving the great natural resources of the country for the people,' not much worthwhile will be done except determined people make their combined influences felt....."

ooperatives nvestigation

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for March 31 says: "Acting in accordance with the Shipstead resolution directing the Trade Commission to investigate the conditions surrounding cooperative marketing organizations that body is now, according to report, making plans to 'probe' the doings of these agricultural societies. The immediate cause of the investigation appears to be complaints of fruit growers in California because of local conditions surrounding the question of membership in cooperative organizations there. While the Trade Commission may 'probe' at will, and perhaps may bring something to light in the way of information, it is well to remember that Congress, in what it has already done, has given practically carte blanche to associations of farmers to organize, combine and operate as they will. They may fix prices, control markets, make such arrangements with the railroads as they can and in every way promote their own interests at the expense of the community. There is need of a complete review and rectification of our entire body of legislation bearing upon farm production and farm marketing."

'arming in the South

An editorial in Modern Farming for April says: "As we have set forth many times in these columns, it is our opinion that southern agriculture can never be consistently profitable until it is put upon a more stable basis. Sometimes our zeal for this belief has elicited a reply something like this: 'Give us profitable prices, and we'll have the permanent agriculture.' To this we rejoin that our critics get the cart very much before the horse. Doubtless uniformly profitable prices would give permanent agriculture--but with uniformly profitable prices there would be nothing to discuss, no problem confronting us. And believe us, the uniformly profitable price can never come first. By permanent agriculture we have always meant an agricultural economy so stable that farmers following a given type of farming would feel no inclination to enter some field utterly new to them. When we speak of permanent agriculture we have in mind the husbandry practices of such agricultural communities as Denmark, Holland, and some of the more highly developed regions of our own country. In these areas there is no such thing as a man jumping from one kind of farming into another. As a matter of fact there is but one type of farming. Years of patient experience have taught the producer what to produce, and he recognizes the economic suicide it would be to switch off onto another trail. Here in the South our opportunities are so many and varied that it is difficult to decide upon a farm program. The matter can not be settled with the same ease with which smaller countries of great uniformity of soil and climate can settle it. We can do many things for a living. But not to settle upon a fixed farm program is an abuse of our resources. Perhaps the South as a whole can not settle upon a definite production program, but certainly the individual southern farmer who fails to do so can never attain the success he otherwise would attain."

'arm Prices

An editorial in The Idaho Farmer for March 26 says: "A hasty reading of the following tabulation, giving the United States Department of Labor index figures for December, 1924, and December, 1923, would lead to a wrong conclusion--that the prices of farm products are back on a level with the general range of commodity prices, and therefore that the American farmer is relatively as well off as he was before the war.... The general average of all commodities is put at 157, that is, 57 per cent higher than it was in 1913. The general average of prices of farm

products is put at 156.7. Apparently, the prices of farm products are only three-tenths of 1 per cent below the average of prices for all commodities. But a closer examination of the statement shows that the big and costly essentials that the farmer must buy are relatively much higher still than the prices he receives for his products. The price of clothing is nearly double that of 1913-1914. The price of fuel and lighting is considerably higher. The price of building material is above 175 and the price of house furnishing goods is above 172. The farmer, too, must pay more for labor than he paid in 1913, and his taxes are much higher. But that burden is general to all lines of industry and business. Moreover, as we are reminded by the current monthly statement of the Guarantee Trust Company of New York; 'If these values had been a sufficient gauge of the farmer's purchasing power we should have had less complaint of unfavorable rural conditions. But the relatively high crop values were not evenly distributed. Very low prices of some important crops were offset in the average by high figures for others.' Nevertheless, it is a fact that the condition of agriculture in general in the United States is better than it was in 1924 or at any other time since the deflating process of 1921. Of the future no one can be certain, but at this writing the outlook is encouraging for the farmers of the Pacific Northwest. Good prices are assured for wheat, and better prices are indicated for livestock, particularly for cattle. The broad, productive region between the Cascade mountains and the Rockies, wherein the farmers had suffered severely from the worst dry cycle ever known in the history of the country, is drenched with abundant moisture and the soil is in fine condition for the production of crops in 1925."

Fruit Marketing in California

A Fresno dispatch to the press of March 31 states that peaches and figs as well as raisins will be marketed by the Sunland Sales Cooperative Association if the reorganization of the California Peach and Fig Growers' Association is successful. This announcement was made by the directors of the peach association at the time of announcing the extension of the reorganization campaign for two weeks, and was the cause of the extension. So far only 49 per cent of the peach interests and 54 per cent of the fig interests have been signed in the new association, but the directors are confident that with the extension the campaign will be successful. In commenting on the proposed plan for cooperative selling, Ralph P. Merritt, president and managing director of the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers' Association, said: "Our directors have always concurred in the principle that products produced by members of a cooperative organization could be sold to best advantage under cooperative selling methods which would give each cooperative the increased selling effectiveness flowing from the joint use of appropriate distributing facilities. Therefore, any soundly organized and thoroughly established cooperative organization marketing a commodity which runs parallel to the distribution of raisins may make application for the distributing channels of Sunland....."

Grain Exchanges

An editorial in Modern Miller for March 28 says: "Grain, of which wheat is the typical example, is practically the only commodity where profit is made in declines quite as freely as profit is made in advances. If one deals in real estate his profit is made if prices advance. If a merchant deals in clothing or shoes, profit depends in an advance over cost. Every manufacturer, every industrial institution, depends upon advances over cost. Manufacturers and merchants make their living

generally in selling at higher than cost prices. But the wheat trade--here profits are made on declines quite as freely as profits made on advances. If wheat markets are not easily moved, then the problem of the miller and baker can be adjusted, but under conditions of the past year or more, the topsy turvy wheat market--up and down--makes milling and bread making a foolish and unpractical thing. We wonder if Board of Trade men realize this? We wonder if they imagine such an artificial market contrivance can permanently survive? We wonder if they see the absurdity of this from the standpoint of the people and the commercial world? What justification is there for it and why should wheat be a commodity trafficked in, different and distinct from all other commodities. Even stock exchanges do not provide the facilities for money making in declines to the extent that the wheat market does. Only professionals can sell stocks short and find the facilities to deliver. But in the wheat market, there is a daily struggle to sell more or buy more, and by the weight to transactions gain the advantage and get at a profit. Exchanges do offer a real service to the commercial world in distributing grain and providing hedging facilities, but as a sport for bulls and bears, accumulating lines, or dumping under pressure, a commodity that must go into consumption as a manufactured product is made a most artificial plaything."

Hide Traffic in Georgia

An Atlanta dispatch to the press of March 31 says: "The bootlegging of cattle hides is the latest kind of illicit traffic that is being carried on in Georgia by Florida dealers. Georgia put up a seventeen-year fight against the tick, which bores through the hide of cattle, making it almost valueless for leather. The fight was a success. When the State was declared free of the tick, the price for hides advanced rapidly, until they sold at a premium of 4 cents a pound, or about $1.60 a hide. These high prices encouraged the Florida bootleggers, according to Dr. Peter F. Bahnson, State Veterinarian, who says that State is tick infected. Florida dealers are now trucking hides into Georgia and selling them as Georgia hides, thus endangering that State's preferred market."

Northwest Conditions

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of March 31 says: "Basing his opinion on the improved position of the farmer as indicated by the records of his bank, E. G. Quamme, president of the Federal Land Bank at St. Paul, asserts 1925 will be the biggest buying year in the history of the Northwest. He predicts there will be a big demand for everything from shoes to farm machinery, with radio equipment especially favored. Mortgagees of his bank have cut their delinquent taxes from $5,500,000 to $400,000, largely out of the proceeds of the 1924 crop. Another big money crop is in sight for this territory, he says. The War Finance Corporation has reduced its loans in this territory from a peak of $47,000,000 in 1922 to $9,450,000. While the farmer has shown considerable activity in reducing his bank debts and delinquent taxes, he continues to be conservative in the buying of farm supplies. There has been some improvement in the sale of farm machinery, but building material, which is badly needed on many farms, is not finding a ready sale."

Prune Market

A Portland, Ore., dispatch to the press of March 31 states that the dried prune market in the Pacific Northwest is in exceptionally strong position. With Atlantic Coast holdings and Pacific Coast offerings limited, higher prices seem assured.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Mar. 31: New York sacked Round White potatoes $1 to $1.13 per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Florida pointed type cabbage mostly $1.25 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. South Carolina Wakefields $1.25 to $1.75. New York yellow onions $2.90 to $3.25 per 100 pound sack, top of $4 in Pittsburgh. New York Baldwin apples sold at $6 to $6.50 per barrel, top of $7 in Chicago. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, original pack, $6 to $7 per six-basket carrier, top of $7.50 in Baltimore. Florida strawberries in 32 quart crates and pony refrigerators 30 to 45¢ quart basis in leading markets.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.10 for the top; bulk of sales $12.60 to $13; medium and good beef steers $8.40 to $11.40; butcher cows and heifers $4 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $12; fat lambs $13.75 to $16; feeding lambs $14.25 to $15.50; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Grain prices quoted March 31: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.40 to $1.72. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.63 to $1.67; Kansas City $1.58 to $1.65. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.47 1/2; St. Louis $1.46 to $1.48 1/2; Kansas City $1.39 to $1.40. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 97 to 97 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.00 1/4 to $1.02; Minneapolis 90 3/4 to 92 3/4¢; No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.00 to $1.01 1/2. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.00 to $1.03; Minneapolis 96 3/4 to 98 1/4¢; St. Louis $1.00 to $1.03. No.2 white corn Kansas City 97 1/4 to 98¢; No.3 white corn St. Louis $1.03. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 3/4 to 43¢; Minneapolis 38 1/8¢ to 38 5/8¢; St. Louis 44 to 44 1/2¢; Kansas City 42 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 18 points, closing at 24.65¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 17 points, closing at 24.54¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 31,	Mar. 30,	Mar. 31, 1924
20 Industrials	116.75	115.00	93.01
20 R.R. stocks	93.94	92.98	81.26

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 1.)

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WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for April 1 says: "An inquiry into the wheat market at Winnipeg is now completed. In this day of investigations, inquiries and general meddling such an announcement might well be received with a yawn. The surprising fact is that the investigation was conducted not by a Canadian official but by the Consul General of the United States. Just why the United States Government should meddle with great commodity markets in this way is not clear. Neither can it be seen how anything but loss can result to the producers of wheat. The Winnipeg correspondent of the Wall Street Journal, in reporting this investigation, points out that the first weakness in wheat was in the Liverpool market, and Chicago and Winnipeg followed it in the decline. It was not a crime for two producing markets to follow the world's greatest consuming market, as they always do and doubtless always will. These investigations and threats of criminal prosecution, as the correspondent declares, caused a further decline in prices. Since then wheat has made a further slump because few care to risk too much in carrying wheat at the expense of criminal prosecution. People whose memories are not unduly short will recall that less than three months ago, when wheat was advancing, a labor organization in the Southwest complained of the price of wheat and demanded an investigation. The then Secretary of Agriculture instead of threatening every one connected with the grain exchanges or conducting investigations in Winnipeg issued a long defense of the wheat market. If the so-called speculation was right then why should it be wrong now? Always there will be the two interests clashing--that of producers and consumers. When wheat goes up the producers will be happy while consumers complain. When wheat goes down the producers will be dissatisfied and the consumers will rejoice. But neither politics nor official meddling will help the matter. Grain exchanges are an absolute necessity to the country. The farmers may not know it, but they are as necessary to them as are their harvesting machines. Without them they could not market their produce at any such small margin of cost as at present. If let alone prices obey economic laws and find a fair level. There is a new head in the Department of Justice and a new one in the Department of Agriculture. It is to be hoped that both will take broader views of their offices permitting legitimate business of all kinds to go on undisturbed by the clamor of self-seeking interests, with whom everything is wrong if prices move against them."

HARVESTER COMPANY'S REPORT

The press to-day states that the report of the International Harvester Company for 1924 is the most favorable submitted to the stockholders since 1920. The statement showed net operating income of $23,633,235 for the year, against $18,237,837 reported in 1923. After providing for reserves for depreciation, depletion, interest and other deductions, the company reported a net profit of $13,037,395 available for the capital stock, against net profit of $10,274,377 reported in 1923. Alexander Legge, president, in his remarks to stockholders, states that "the company's business for 1924 indicates further progress toward normal conditions in the industry." He said that "the directors believe the period of agricultural depression, which was so markedly reflected in the adverse condition of the farm operating equipment industry, is past, and look forward to a period of more satisfactory times for the American farmer and for the manufacturers supplying his needs of labor-saving farm equipment."

Section 2

Business Principles Enunciated by Gary

Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, is the author of an extended article on business and the control of prices and output in The Country Gentleman for April 4. Mr. Gary says: "Business can not be safely divorced from considerations of public welfare. If any business is to rest upon a firm basis and be in position to look confidently and with a properly balanced optimism toward the future, its managers must take due cognizance of the interests of the security holders, the workmen and the general public. Good business is therefore not capable of an easy or a short definition. Business is not always best when it seems to be so, nor worst when pessimists call it bad. In so-called good times prices may become so high as to check consumption on the one hand and induce overproduction on the other. Conversely, in a period of apparent depression, prices may merely be settling to a firmer, more dependable basis which will permit prudent commitments for the future. Stability of prices contributes largely to steady profitable business. Only under conditions of stability can men plan confidently for the future. Were it not that these fundamental facts are so often overlooked by legislators, by self-appointed reformers, by prejudiced investigators and by the ill-informed members of society, it would not be necessary for me to insist in season and out of season that business, to be consistently prosperous, must be conducted according to strict rules. One of these rules is that no arrangement for the management or control of business can be satisfactory, or result in success, if it involves any unnatural or artificial restraint. Let me say at the outset that I believe in Government supervision of business. For example, competition may become so keen as to be oppressive. If by reason of great wealth or power one individual or concern can resort to unfair and repressive measures against another individual or concern with smaller resources, I think that for the public good there should be an arrangement for some governmental supervision, whereby the intensity of that competition might be modified. And in such cases the right of appeal to the courts from the decision of the Government board or commission should be granted. But while investigations by legislative committees have sometimes been of benefit in bringing to public view facts relating to the misconduct of business, they have more often been harmful because unfair, politically partisan and conducted without regard to the rules which should govern legal procedure. In the past there have been too many tinkers and too few trained men on such commissions, too few economic experts and too many lawyers and politicians. I have often had occasion to criticize investigations of that sort and occasionally even to suggest an investigation of the investigators. Legislators who act, vote and talk with a view of advancing personal interests are unfit to be members of investigating commissions. ... Take as an example the age-old law of supply and demand. This law is as inexorable as gravity. It is not true that any business combination has ever succeeded in suspending or disregarding it. And no one ever will. But every little while someone bobs up with the assertion that big business has risen above the law of supply and demand. The United States Steel Corporation is perhaps the largest industrial organization in the world. ... But there are many things in our business that the management can not control; for instance, the prices of our products.

Prices are made jointly by the sellers and purchasers. When the demand exceeds the supply, prices inevitably rise. On the other hand when the producing capacity is increasing rapidly, and the supply may be greater than the demand, this makes greater competition and tends to reduce selling prices. Under these conditions there is only one thing for us to do, and this is to keep our position in the trade by manufacturing a fair proportion of the best material at the lowest cost and to sell at prices which will retain for us a fair share of the iron and steel business....The possibility of artificially or arbitrarily restricting production is another idea which has occasioned much loose talk. If the United States Steel Corporation could do exactly what it would like to do, it would always demand and receive fair prices for everything it produces. It would never let prices go to extortionate heights. And it would always pay liberal wages to labor. But we can not control these matters. We have never been in position to ask more or pay less than seemed reasonably fair as determined by existing conditions....And furthermore, I seriously question whether the artificial control of output within arbitrarily determined limits ever was accomplished. In times of depression, when demand falls to a low point, manufacturing may lag a bit and speed up again as demand increases. But that is merely a natural and immediate adjustment of production to an actual market condition. It would be a very different matter, however, for the managers of any industry to agree in advance upon an arbitrary limit of production for a future period. In my opinion such action would be unwise and impossible of fulfillment--impossible because no such agreement could be brought about, and unwise because no sensible business man would voluntarily tie his hands on a mere guess as to what might happen some months hence. The only way in which a business corporation can hold its place in the trade is to have forthcoming an adequate supply of its products for all market demands.

"Irresponsible persons have sometimes asserted that the chief thing which farmers have to learn from manufacturing concerns is how to limit production so as to keep up prices. So far as I see, arbitrary limitation of output would be folly and impossible of success. And turning to the field of agriculture, any scheme of restriction is utterly unfeasible. I do not know how many campaigns have been carried on to limit the acreage of cotton or corn. But they have always failed and will fail. And if they should happen to be brought about they would do little but harm to both producer and consumer....."

Market Break

An editorial in The New York Times for April 1 says: "Once in a while there occurs in the speculative markets a movement of prices so sudden, so violent and in its scope so unexpected that the financial community confesses itself bewildered. If prices are falling, one begins to hear indignant comment (even in the bureaus at Washington) concerning the 'bear speculators'; the tacit assumption being that it was their machinations alone that moved the markets in the opposite direction from what all reasonable indications justified. After a time, further study of the situation usually brings agreement that nothing else than the 'downward readjustment' ought to have been expected. This is the attitude which will presently be taken regarding the fall on the Stock Exchange and in the wheat market. What is already recognized as a reckless and ill-judged speculation had put up the price of stocks all the way from 10 to 70 per cent in January, on top of a prolonged advance

in the autumn, and had driven wheat prices from $1.75 per bushel to $2.05, although $1.25 was thought a good price when the winter wheat was harvested last July. The January rise in stocks had been based on the assumption either of a spectacular 'trade boom' or of the irresistible influence upon prices of our overflowing gold reserve. The January rise in wheat had been based on the assumption that the rest of the world must buy all of our wheat at the Chicago price or starve. When that assumption turned out to be erroneous, the speculation necessarily collapsed.

"Whether present prices of wheat and stocks represent a normal level, whether the momentum of a precipitous reaction has carried them unduly far, or whether the readjustment is even yet uncompleted, we shall know before very long. But in one respect the episode already conveys instruction. During two or three years we have been informed repeatedly that the heaping-up of imported gold in the United States--it had increased nearly $2,000,000,000 in four years-- meant such inflation of the currency as would infallibly drive up prices to previously unknown heights. Some who held this belief asserted that credit was certain eventually to be expanded in proportion to the new gold reserves, and that the new credit would be used to bid up prices. Others explained that the great increase in our gold holdings must cause a fall of the value of gold in the United States, and that a fall in gold could be expressed only by a rise of prices. Still others (Mr. Keynes among them) went further, declaring that the 'inflation markets' would have existed long ago but for the highly arbitrary action of the Federal Reserve Board in 'sterilizing' the gold--a pretty phrase whose meaning was never clear to anybody, but which apparently was based on the notion that the Reserve Board was somehow keeping up money rates and holding back credit facilities, and so obstructing 'gold inflation.'....The argument of inevitable 'gold inflation' and of a 'sterilizing' policy that had broken down sounded well in theory, but when it came to actual bargaining the real buyer seemed to know the price at which he could get his goods or stocks by waiting, and he waited. When this real consumer is well informed (as he seems to be just now) on the actual balance of supply and demand in the different markets, he frequently throws an awkward obstacle in the path of the economic doctrinaire."

Tree Planting in Massachusetts

An editorial in The Washington Post for April 1 says: "Massachusetts has admirably anticipated the American Forestry Week which the President has designated for the end of April. The State government has distributed for planting no fewer than 4,000,000 white pine seedlings, besides a considerable number of spruce. These are sufficient for planting 5,000 acres. That, we may say, is a small, almost an insignificant, area. It would be, if it were all in one plot. But these millions of trees have been distributed to practically every town and city in the State, so that the beneficial effect of the planting will be enjoyed in all parts of the Commonwealth. It is far better to have a thousand trees in each of ten towns than 10,000 in one town and none in the other nine. Moreover, the State has 20,000,000 more trees, which will be ready for distribution and planting next year and the year following; which will mean 25,000 acres reforested. We have said that 5,000 acres seems a small area for reforesting. But Massachusetts is in area a small State. Let us suppose all other States in the Union to do as well--and they should, for there is not a State that needs it less than Massachusetts, while there are many that need it immeasurably more.

Well, it would mean that in the present year there would be planted 1,480,000,000 trees, reforesting a total area of 1,850,000 acres. That, we submit, would be well worth while, as a substantial step toward checking the denudation of forest lands. And if in the next two years all continued to do as well as Massachusetts, with five times as much such work as this year, we should have by 1927 an area of more than 11,000,000 acres planted with nearly 9,000,000,000 trees. That would be tree planting in earnest."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Las Vegas (New Mexico) Daily Optic for March 27 says: "The system inaugurated by the United States Department of Agriculture to report biennially a forecast of conditions governing supply and demand in agricultural products should mean a great deal to the progressive farmer who has the foresight to invest a small amount of money in daily publications which carry the information sent out by the bureau. In the case of many crops the farmer has to think in terms of world production. This is true of wheat, pork, wool, sugar, flax, peanuts, cotton, and other commodities. Prices for some of these crops are mainly determined by the foreign market situation. A great deal of information about foreign crops and markets has been obtained and distributed in recent years. Such information is an invaluable guide to farmers as to how much of a given commodity they should aim to produce. While crop yields per acre can not be foretold very far in advance, acreage can be controlled and acreage in the case of many crops is as important as changes in yields in determining the final output. Farmers who regulate their acreage in the light of advance information as to the probable demand for any crop are therefore showing sound practicality. Adjustment of production, says the Department of Agriculture, is the surest way to prevent disastrous ups and downs in market prices. No control of the marketing process can accomplish this result when production is badly out of balance. It is better to adjust production to demand, than to rely too much on efficiency in marketing to undo the bad effect of mistakes in production. Adjusting farm production, however, is only possible before crops are in the ground and before animals are bred. The turnover of most farm crops is at least a year. Once crops are planted and livestock bred, the only adjustment a farmer can make to an unfavorable market situation is to change the time and manner in which he will sell his products. As he can do this only within narrow limits, it is better for him to gauge his production ahead, in accordance with available data forecasting production and price trends. As yet relatively few farmers do this. Heretofore, for example, only limited use has been made of the department's intention to plant reports. These reports are issued twice a year, in March for spring crops like wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and tobacco, and in August for winter wheat and rye. They show what farmers are planning to plant. Sometimes these plans, if carried out, would shift the acreage of a given crop in the wrong direction. Publication of the 'Intention to Plant' reports gives farmers a chance to avoid such errors. When these reports are appreciated and understood, they will help to bring about a proper adjustment of acreage. General use of all the production and market forecasts issued by the department would undoubtedly set in motion a strong influence tending to smooth out the hills and valleys of production, and to eliminate the losses always caused by a bad adjustment of supply to demand."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 1 : Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes declined $1 to $2 per barrel closing at $8 to $10 in leading markets; $7 f.o.b. Hastings. Texas cabbage unsettled with Florida and South Carolina stock tending lower. New York Baldwin apples steady at $6 to $6.50 per barrel, top of $7 in New York. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, sold nearly steady at $6 to $7 per six basket carrier, original pack, top of $7.50 in New York. Florida strawberries firm at 30 to 50¢ quart basis in leading markets. Louisiana Klondikes 75 to $1.00 higher at $6 to $6.50 per 24 pint-crate in midwestern cities; $5.52 1/2 to $5.95 f.o.b. Hammond.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.25 for the top and $12.80 to $13.20 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $4 to $11.50; feeder steers $3.90 to $8.35; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $12.50; fat lambs $14 to $16.25; feeding lambs $14.25 to $15.50; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Grain prices quoted April 1: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.43 1/2 to $1.75 1/2. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.51; St. Louis $1.70 to $1.75; Kansas City $1.59 to $1.66. No.2 hard winter Kansas City $1.44 to $1.52. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 98 to 99¢; No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 90 3/4 to 92 3/4¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 97¢ to $1.00. No.2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.03. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.03 3/4 to $1.07; Minneapolis 96 3/4 to 98 3/4¢; St. Louis $1.04. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.06 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 42 1/2 to 44¢; Minneapolis 38 7/8 to 39 3/8¢; St. Louis 45 to 45 1/2¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 46 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Chicago 43 1/2¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 46¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 7 points, closing at 24.72¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 8 points, closing at 24.62¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 1,	Mar. 31,	Apr. 1, 1924
20 Industrials	118.07	116.75	93.50
20 R.R. stocks	94.29	93.94	81.48

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 2.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 3 Section 1 April 3, 1925

HEAT OF SUN TO BE MEASURED

The press to-day states that the National Geographic Society, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution, will send an expedition half way round the world to make a daily measure of the heat of the sun. The observations will extend over four years and will be made to determine a method of long range weather forecasting"by which it is hoped that cyclones across our Middle West, storms at sea, a week of rainless days for a county fair, or the last frost of spring can be predicted well in advance." The expedition will be led by Dr. Charles G. Abbot, director of the Smithsonian Institution's astrophysical observatory. Dr. Abbot will make a survey of points in Asia and Africa before it is decided where to establish a field station for the proposed expedition. Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the society, said that the expedition will be known as "The National Geographic Society's Solar Radiation Expedition, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution."

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

A Princeton, N.J., dispatch to the press to-day states that Dr. E. J. van Cauwenbergh, Professor and Librarian of the University of Louvain, Belgium, visited the library of Princeton University April 2 in connection with a tour of similar institutions in the United States. He has seen most of the important libraries in the Eastern States and has now practically completed his trip. "I have been impressed on my tour," said Dr.van Cauwenbergh, "with the fact that American library administration has advanced far beyond that of Europe. On the Continent we have a disposition to look upon libraries as a place of conservation for books and manuscripts. The accent is placed in this country on the use, rather than the preservation,of material. Your people as a whole read far more than our people do. The whole tendency in this country is better with regard to the library's attitude toward the public and the public's attitude toward the library."

CHILD LABOR IN U.S. CENSURED

An Associated Press dispatch to-day says: "Child-labor conditions in some sections of the United States were condemned by labor members of the governing board of the international labor office, which opened a three-days' session at Geneva April 2. Yan Oudegeest, president of the Dutch labor federation, and Leon Jouhaux, of France, president of the General Federation of Labor, urged publication by the bureau of all possible information on conditions in America. He expressed the belief that world public opinion thus could be brought to bear on the Americans and culminate in an improvement. Albert Thomas, France, director of the international labor organization, explained that the governing board had no right to interfere with what the United States Government or State governments were doing on the child-labor question. He said, however, it was the bureau's duty to publish all statistical information because of its bearing on general industrial conditions. M. Thomas added that he already had requested the bureau's representative in Washington to collect and forward data. The discussion of conditions in the United States was the sequence to the recent apparent rejection by the Americans of child-labor amendment to the Constitution, and arose from the fear of labor leaders that rejection of the proposed amendment would prevent an amelioration of the condition of children in certain States. The American conditions were discussed together with those in the mandated countries and China."

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions

In an editorial on Secretary Jardine's recent utterances on the subject of agriculture and its needs, The Florida Times-Union for March 31 says: ".....Secretary Jardine's statements are based on actual facts. For instance, within ten days past, in a news dispatch from the western center of the agricultural country, it was stated reliably that bankers were being surprised with the prevailing payment, by farmers, of their financial obligations, many of them long over-due. These payments, it was asserted, were being made because farmers now have more money, actual cash, than they have had for some years past, notoriously 'lean years'. Also, that these farmers are paying their notes and other obligations, including mortgages, without any urging, indicating that the farmers, as a class, pay their just dues when and as soon as they are able; that all they ask is a chance to make more than a bare living. In connection with what has been said it is well worth noting that the money with which the farmers of the West are paying their debts is not money from the Government Treasury, voted to them as are appropriations to those in unusual distress. It is money that is coming to them in the orderly and natural course of their business, which has improved naturally and without the aid of Congress, the improvement being due to the very natural law of supply and demand. That is why wheat has been selling around and above the $2 per bushel price. Congress has not fixed the price, but the law of supply and demand has. Consequently, there is sound reason for Secretary Jardine to say that the farmer knows that 'legislation can not annul economic laws.'"

Agriculture and Business

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 2 says: "On one or two recent occasions the Secretary of Agriculture has expressed and reiterated a desire to bring about mutually more helpful relations between agriculture and industry in this country. To date the public has not been able to ascertain, in any great detail, just how he intends these rather vague terms to be construed. But in a very real and a very fundamental sense there is urgent need that leaders in these two fields of economic endeavor put their heads together in an effort to work out the rural problems with which the Nation is faced, particularly the political phases of those problems. Our legislative halls have more or less always been the scenes of struggle, either in the open or thinly veiled, between agricultural and industrial interests. The war and its aftermath while not creating any essentially new lines of cleavage have developed conditions which enabled industrialists to obtain legislative favors in the nature of the case denied farmers and have thus served to intensify antagonisms. They have indeed done a good deal more than that. The larger and increasing political strength of the farmer has forced the industrialist into a position where he thinks he is forced to yield at least tacit consent to agrarian programs which he knows are unsound and futile in order that he may safeguard his own position in Congress. The result is that despite the fact that he has been able to force measures through for his own alleged benefit the farmer still finds himself at a disadvantage compared to the industrialist, and the latter instead of putting his shoulder to the wheel is inclined to try to soothe the ruffled feelings of the farmer by pointing out the numerous steps which have been taken to 'help' him. In all this a large element of hypocrisy prevails. Spokesmen for industrial interests never tire of reiterating the dependence of manufacturers upon a prosperous agriculture. They are usually quite glad to join in almost any sort of lip service to agriculture, 'the backbone of America's greatness.' They are willing enough to

give their sanction to this, that or the other futile scheme, such as tariffs on commodities which we normally export in large quantities, so long as they are convinced that it will do them no direct harm of importance and will aid them in keeping in hand the votes necessary to maintain their privileged status in Washington and elsewhere. But they sedulously insist upon tariff protection in excessive proportions despite the obvious fact that such 'protection' does the farmer more harm than all the nostrums can good. Industrialists are not far wrong when they say that prosperity of a real and relatively permanent character even in manufacturing districts is in large measure dependent upon a reasonably sound and profitable condition in agricultural districts. If that is true, would it not be well for industrial leaders to give some careful, honest and constructive study to the question how farm prosperity can be best restored and maintained? It might be unprecedented in this country for a group of leading manufacturers to go to Washington with an agricultural program, but if proposals contained therein were well chosen and carefully formulated much good might easily result from the establishment of this new precedent. Determination on the part of the manufacturer to make agricultural ills his problem ought for one thing to help sweep away much of the current loose, if not hypocritical, thinking about the subject. Such a consummation would afford about the best possible insurance the manufacturer could obtain against future trouble of a variety of sorts."

Canadian Bakeries Bought

The New York Times of April 2 says: "The Continental Baking Corporation, which several months ago announced its plan for a $500,000,000 combine of baking companies, has entered the Canadian baking field. Six leading Canadian companies operating ten bakeries in seven cities have been consolidated under the name of the Northern Bakeries, Ltd., a Montreal corporation. The new concern has been acquired by the Continental, of which George G. Barber is chairman of the board.

Dairy System in New England

An editorial in New England Homestead for March 28 says: "Reports indicate that a large percentage of New Hampshire dairymen are signing the New England dairy system contracts. The canvass has been going along quietly but persistently. Indications are that more than 70% of the market milk supply in northern New Hampshire will be in the organization. Meantime, much interest centers in the decision of the Vermont commissioner of banking and insurance. It is necessary for him to issue a permit before the farmers can offer stock for sale in the dairy system in that State."

Fruit Production

An editorial in The Idaho Farmer for March 26 says: "How much more fruit can the American people be expected to consume? How much farther can they follow the lure of Florida Sealdsweet, California Sunkist or Oregon and Washington Mistland? This question can not be fully answered, but indications are that they are just about 'full enough,' and that total consumption of fruit in this country will not increase materially except as the population increases. According to dieticians' estimates, an adequate fruit diet for America's present population would be about 341,000,000 bushels--and actual production in 1922 was over 332,000,000 bushels, or 97.5 per cent of adequate. Here again efficiency in production and marketing will determine the success of the orchardists as a group and as individuals."

Interstate Traffic

An editorial in New England Homestead for March 28 says: "Now comes a new reason why New England farmers must cooperate to assemble, grade, distribute and market their produce: The United States Supreme Court on March 2 handed down the momentous decision that a State has no right to interfere with or control commerce on the highway passing from one State to another. This means that Uncle Sam insists upon the same supervision over interstate traffic by public roads as by railways. This decision will be followed by rapid and big expansion in motor traffic, thus rendering still more serious the good roads problem. Traffic wholly within the State remains under State supervision. Anyone who transports people or commodities for pay becomes a common carrier, subject to State or Federal authority, just as much as a railroad! How increasingly complicated life becomes! Cooperative marketing will minimize the number of vehicles, simplify the traffic, supply producers with fresher stuff and net the producer more of the consumer's dollar. The prize to be won is so great that if our farmers do not thus cooperate, our markets will be more and more supplied from the Middle, Western and Southern States by farmers who are organized to assemble, grade, pack, ship and distribute their products into New England cities. In self-preservation, our farmers must do likewise, as the Nashoba fruit growers already are doing, as several dairy systems are doing, as the New England-wide dairy system contemplates, as tobacco and potato growers also are doing. "

Marginal Farming

An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for March 19 says: "Throughout all lines of human effort, in fact throughout all forms of life, there is a sharply drawn line between success and failure. The nearer we get to this line the narrower is the margin by which we succeed. Recent trend of thought has brought into common use the adjective 'marginal,' particularly in agricultural activities since the war. It is a handy word to think about. We have the marginal farmer in general. He is the farmer who succeeds only when fortune favors him with a good crop combined with good prices for it. We have the marginal acre. It is the acre that produces a crop only when the weather conditions are favorable. We have the marginal cow by the millions. She is the 'critter' that turns a profit to her owner only when prices are abnormally high and unjustly so to the consumers. As we analyze present conditions more carefully we are coming to realize the part that marginal operations have played in the farming industry as an after-effect of the war. It takes a war to upset economic conditions. The late war brought the marginal farmer, the marginal acre, the marginal cow and the marginal everything-else into competition with normal agricultural operations. Any kind of a farmer, any kind of an acre, any kind of a cow was able to earn a profit at war prices. Referring more especially to dairying, there have been thousands of cows milked throughout the country that before the war were only used to raise calves. Other cows that might have gone to butchers were kept in herds because the price made up for their miserable low yields. The trouble with this marginal farming is that it did not end with the war; it continues to hang on and many farmers are foolish enough to think that it should. Agriculture will come into its own again only when economic forces push marginal farming across the margin and out of the business."

Milling Industry

An editorial in Modern Miller for March 28 says: "At the annual meeting of the St. Louis Millers' Club, President Sydney Anderson again in convincing words held out hope for a new order of things in the

milling industry. President Anderson says it is quite within the realm of practical accomplishment to avoid a flour production which the trade can not absorb, and as for foolish selling terms, he said this was up to the millers, but he believed they would move in the right direction and that the federation could direct them. Another bit of trade discouragement is only working in the direction of bringing the mind of the trade to the danger of going it alone. President Anderson made a deep impression and it renews the hope for a firm step in the program which the new federation is to initiate at the April meeting....."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 An extended editorial in The Outlook for April 1 asks the question: Are the guardians of the forests fighters or quitters? and says in part: "The attitude of the Forest Service toward the chestnut blight is not a cheering sign to those who regard the first business of the Forest Service as that of a trustee of the people's wealth. We do not deplore the use of the forests for recreation. We are aware, as all our citizens should be aware, of the impossibility and undesirability of excluding the public from the forests; but we hold emphatically and we believe the American people hold, that the administration of the forests for the comfort and enjoyment of recreationists is a minor duty of the service, and when it absorbs the enthusiasm of the foresters at the expense of their fighting spirit for the protection of the property itself it has assumed wrong proportions. This applies to the whole question, not only of the protection of the forests, but of their renewal. It does not seem to us a good sign that the efforts of the Forest Service should be so largely directed to subordinate matters without indication of eager insistence upon the performance of work that is essential. What the American people have a right to expect of any trustee of their forests in dealing with a serious matter like the chestnut blight is not excuse, not reasons for inaction, but a fighting spirit on behalf of their property. In later editorials we shall consider some of the other duties of the Forest Service and the reasons for what seems to us to be the need for a change in its spirit and attitude."

2 Clarence L. Linz, writing to The Florists Exchange for March 28, says: "The Porto Rico plant quarantine hearing--the first held under the new administration--suggests the thought that now, under the guidance of Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, a more reasonable and consistent policy of guarding against the invasion by and spread of dangerous pests and diseases, may possibly be developed....Although it is generally the complaint that the cases made by the board are not well founded, to date the board has been able to hold its own and to maintain its regulatory powers without diminution. Recently, however, there have come two changes in the personnel of the board, through resignations, and more recently there has come a new Secretary of Agriculture to whom all future proposed quarantines must be submitted before they are announced. The writer is informed that a 'showdown' on the question of policy is imminent with the drawing near of the deadline beyond which certain importations will be cut off. It has been suggested that with the advent of the new administration and the presence of a new Secretary of Agriculture now might be a good time to precipitate the controversy and to urge the Secretary to decide whether the policies of the board, now the cause of so much complaint and dissatisfaction, shall be determined upon really well defined lines, or whether the board shall be permitted to sway from one extreme to another according to its own opinions. It is recognized

that the introduction of plants has been largely responsible for the presence of various pests and diseases, and it is not desired to throw off all restrictions entirely; but it is felt that there should be a more scientific consideration of the commercial relationship of all commodities; and that it should be decided how far the esthetic sense of the Nation should be sacrificed at the cry of the 'wolf'."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 2: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.55 for the top and $13.10 to $13.50 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $4 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $12.50; fat lambs $14 to $16.25; feeding lambs $14.25 to $15.50; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes steady at $1 to $1.15 per 100 pounds. Northern Round Whites 10¢ lower in Chicago at 80¢ to 90¢ carlot sales; 65¢ to 70¢ f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples fairly steady at $6 to $6.50 per barrel. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage weaker at $1 to $1.25 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. New York yellow onions sold at $2.75 to $3.25 per 100 pound sack in the East. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, slightly weaker in New York, steady to firm elsewhere, closing at $6 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier, top of $7 in Baltimore.

Grain prices quoted April 2: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.38 to $1.70. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.65 to $1.71; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.75. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.38 to $1.49. No.4 hard winter Chicago $1.44; No.1 hard winter St. Louis $1.48. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 94 to 95¢. No.3 mixed corn Chicago 98 1/4 to 99¢. Minneapolis 85 to 87¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.03 1/4 to $1.04; Minneapolis 91 to 93¢; Kansas City 97 3/4 to 98¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis $1.02 to $1.03. No.3 white oats Chicago 41 1/2 to 42 1/2¢; Minneapolis 36 1/4 to 36 3/4¢; St. Louis 44 to 44 1/2¢; Kansas City 45¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Chicago 43 3/4¢; Boston 46¢; Philadelphia 46¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 1 point, closing at 24.73¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 1 point, closing at 24.63¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 2,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 2, 1924
20 Industrials	117.61	118.07	94.50
20 R. R. stocks	94.03	94.29	82.04

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 3.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 4 Section 1 April 4, 1925

BUSINESS ASPECT

Dun's Review to-day says:"The abatement of unsettlement in the stock market, after further depression early this week, has given the general situation a better aspect. Speculative excesses are always more or less detrimental to business, for reaction is inevitable when a rise of prices has been carried too far, and if the readjustment is severe it tends to affect sentiment. The soundness of basic conditions now is reassuring, but many persons had become oversanguine regarding trade prospects and their expectations of rapid progress have not been fulfilled. There has even been a recession of activity in various commodities....This trend is reflected in Dun's index number of wholesale quotations for April 1, which shows a reduction of 3.7 per cent and is at the lowest point in five months."

COTTON COST IN BRITAIN

A Manchester dispatch to the press of April 4 states that representatives of all branches of the British cotton industry conferred at Manchester April 3 to find means of spreading the heavy losses of the last three years over more shoulders, and to reduce production costs. The export trade has suffered greatly because of high costs, which have been felt by the millions of inhabitants of tropical countries, where only cotton goods are worn. Spinners and weavers have invited representatives of the bleaching and finishing branches to confer with agents of the export trade in the distribution.

THE COTTON SCHEDULE

An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "Senator Butler, who has an affectionate interest in the cotton schedule and a general old-fashioned mystic reverence for protection as a sacred and omnipotent economic deity, stirred a mild surprise the other day by a speech warning bankers and wicked foreigners, who want to trade with the United States and are expected to pay their debts to it. To the pre-Adamite protectionists there are no new situations. There must never be any 'lowering of the tariff bars.' Make 'em higher, if you can. The Massachusetts textile industries, not having been brought to health by the last application of the infallible nostrum, whimper faintly from time to time for a stronger dose. Presumably, Mr. Butler was trying to console the inconsolable; nor did his remarks have other than local importance....The importers, however, are uneasy. Not only are the so mythically influential Mr. Butler and his associate philanthropists bound to jack up the rates, but Representative Hawley of Oregon, second high man on the ways and means committee, meditates administrative changes of the tariff and a roundabout way of raising rates. These volunteer activities are amusing. They show the true protectionist spirit undiminished. They receive no encouragement from Mr. Coolidge....The composition of the Senate, the position of Senator Borah, the large distrust which the western farmers have of the benefits conferred upon them by the master work of Mr. Fordney and Mr. McCumber, their still recent sharp perception that while it puts up prices of what they buy it is powerless to increase the prices of what they sell raised by causes entirely independent of it; the economic heresies of the Northwest, the special wrath of the La Follette bloc--all these considerations are enough to make Mr. Coolidge refuse to touch the tariff with a ten-foot pole...."

Section 2

Agricultural Colleges

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for April 4 says: "The agricultural colleges represent more than an investment of nearly one-third of a billion dollars. They represent one of the great hopes of American agriculture in its struggle to maintain an equality with other groups. Farming, fully as much as any other occupational group, must have capable and trustworthy leadership. The agricultural colleges, because of their public-service character, their facilities for truth seeking and their opportunity for the training of young men and women, are especially qualified to supply such leadership. Yet the last several years have witnessed farmers turning elsewhere for leadership and assistance so far as many of their most pressing problems are concerned. And at the same time the number of young people receiving an agricultural training at these colleges has diminished. These are matters of serious concern, not only to the colleges but to the farming population."

Agriculture and Business

Sioux City Live Stock Record for March 31 says: "The experience of the past five years showed that it was impossible for one section of the country to enjoy real and sustained prosperity while another important section of the country was suffering adversity. In other words, the bankers and business men of the East realize now that the seeming post-war prosperity that they enjoyed was not the real thing. This was forcibly brought out in a recent address in New York, by William H. Woodin, president of the American Car and Foundry Company. 'There is one thing more needed,' he announced, 'and that is a realization that the farmer is the one great factor in the prosperity of the country. The man who devotes his entire time to his own private affairs, complimenting himself that he is minding his own business, is blind to the fact that his own prosperity is dependent on all groups. The farmer is the biggest customer, the biggest consumer, producer and seller in the whole country. He is the fundamental cause of prosperity.' Not until the whole country fully understands that this Nation of ours can not be really and permanently prosperous until agriculture enjoys the same opportunities as other lines of industry will business of all kinds be on a thoroughly stable basis."

Australia's Wool Surplus

Australia's wool carryover this year will be more than twelve times as great as last year's, according to a cabled estimate received by J.A.M.Elder, Australian Commissioner in the United States, from Melbourne April 2. It was estimated that wool held in store at the start of the second quarter was 520,957 bales and that arrivals by June 30 next--when the Australian wool season ends--would be 150,650 bales, making a total of 651,607. With April offerings estimated at 130,000 bales, the net carryover was estimated at 541,607 bales, against an actual carryover last year of 44,439. The Australian wool clip for the 1924-1925 season was 2,070,000 bales, against 1,766,601 in 1923-1924. (Press, Apr. 3.)

Cooperative Marketing

Sioux City Live Stock Record for March 31 says: "As a matter of course, it may as well be accepted that cooperative marketing has come to stay. It has, in fact, been here a long time, although perhaps not called by the same name. Worked to its logical ends--not beyond its logical ends--it is no doubt one of the best moves ever made by farming interests. But we still hold that the word has been for several years, and is yet the most overworked combination of letters in the English language....There is no doubt of the President's sincerity in his constant mention of cooperative

marketing for the farmer--but he is overworking the word at a time when if there is anything this side of eternity that the farmer must do it is to work out his own salvation. The new Secretary of Agriculture is a man of the farming districts, and one of his announcements is that the farmer should be left to work himself out of the hole. His exact statement being that 'if the farmer is left alone he will work himself out.' There is no doubt that the farmer is working toward the surface--and the Department of Agriculture in Washington can do a world of good--but it can't run the markets and regulate prices. Supply and demand must regulate prices, and the farmer and market men must take care of the job of marketing...."

Crops and Business

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 3 says: "Those who are speculating about business prospects for the year 1925 must necessarily recognize the extreme significance that is to be attributed this year to the question of agricultural yield. It is still early to entertain any opinion even of a vague sort about prospective output. Yet that subject is now perhaps more than any other the one around which business developments may be expected to turn. The excited speculation that has taken place in the wheat market with a loss of value amounting to something like 30 per cent of quotations at the high point is by some evidently regarded as indicating a 'loss to the farmer' either present or prospective. This is apparently upon the theory that the farmer had been expecting to get $2 or more for his wheat or that he did in fact get something like that price for his last crop. As to the latter point it is safe to say that he received in but few cases more than $1.25 for any considerable portion of his output, while prices even at the lowest figure lately reached in Chicago are very well above that quotation. On the other hand, foreign crop prospects must necessarily play a very large part in the final establishment of the valuation of American wheat and there is accordingly an increasing amount of attention to planting and prospective condition in those countries whose wheat yield is earlier than ours.

"As for cotton, the price in spite of sharp fluctuations has been on the average fairly stable around present averages for a good while and yet these averages are admittedly too high to enable mills to cut prices and so make sales to the consumer. The cotton farmer complains that even at the present figure he can not in a good many cases make ends meet. None the less he is enlarging his cotton acreage if present indications are to be trusted and is relying upon a consumption demand which apparently does not exist to put the current value of his product ahead. There is no apparent prospect of any larger competition with our cotton from abroad, so that the price would seem to be in a very large degree a domestic American matter, as it usually is, although perhaps more so this year than has been recently the case.....The intimate relationship between agricultural prospects and general business is familiar and needs no emphasis, but this year it is peculiarly close. Perhaps it is too late now to make much change of policy with respect to acreage to be cultivated. Probably the best of advice would fall to a large extent upon deaf ears at any season. But it is surely not too late for business in general to recognize the fact that a prosperous outlook for the remainder of the year and the beginning of 1926 must in a high degree be dependent upon the progress of the staple crops and their prices as determined by general world conditions. Few of the professional forecasters appear to be giving this phase of the business situation and outlook more than very casual attention, and yet there is no factor that is likely so greatly to modify their conclusions as this one."

Meat Prices

Institute of American Meat Packers states that the month was featured by high prices for hogs, notwithstanding a rather dull trade in pork products at home and abroad. Hog prices made a record-breaking advance of two dollars per hundred pounds during the first week of March and now are some 80 per cent higher than they were a year ago, despite a slight downward tendency in the market during the latter part of the month. The beef and lamb trade also was rather unsatisfactory. The demand was dull and prices were relatively weak. Some companies stated, in fact, that a curtailment in demand was noticeable in some industrial centers where conditions apparently are not as good as during February. The veal trade was more satisfactory. The export trade during March was at the lowest point in years, especially during the latter half of the month. Outside of a small demand for oleo oil, there was little trade in either meats or lard.

Potash Combine

The press of April 3 says: "Mergers of domestic importing interests is the only means of combatting the monopolistic control exercised by foreign exporters of products essential to American industry, Secretary Hoover reiterated April 2 in discussing developments of the Franco-German potash combine. This may not be effective in connection with all the products involved, he said, but is the only means at hand and promises well where domestic consumers are few in number. Secretary Hoover expressed the opinion that the importation of sisal lends itself to this form of organization. The survey of the potash situation under way by the Department of Commerce will be completed some time during the summer, according to Secretary Hoover. He had been advised unofficially, he said, that the Franco-German combination contemplates control of production rather than control of price and distribution."

Potash Protection

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 3 says: "Probably the agitation currently credited to domestic producing interests in favor of placing potash on the dutiable list is too obviously illfounded to be dangerous. Yet it would be well for the public to bear the facts of this situation in mind as a mere matter of self-protection against the possibility that political bargains or deals will sooner or later bring about the absurdity of a tariff upon potash. At the present moment there is an apparent disposition in some quarters to use the existence of a potash monopoly or something closely approaching a monopoly in Europe as an argument for tariff action on our part. This reasoning, either by express statement or by plain implication, runs about as follows: The American farmer is at the mercy of a foreign combine which apportions markets, and within limits imposed by total demand fixes prices to suit itself. This monopoly has not as yet, it is true, discriminated against the American consumer, but it can do so at any time if it so chooses. Under the present regime there is little or nothing the farmer in this country can do in self-protection. If, on the other hand, potash were put on the dutiable list the flexible provisions of the tariff law could be invoked if necessary to curb the ambitions of the foreign producer. As to all this it may at once be remarked that potash is at the present moment one of the very few requirements of the farmer which can now be purchased at less than pre-war prices, monopoly or no monopoly. But even if that were not true what would be gained by placing a tariff upon the commodity except to add to the price the farmer would have to pay for his fertilizer? We do not, and can not, produce more than a fraction of our needs. Suppose domestic producers were permitted to fix the rate of duty to suit themselves, farmers would still have to buy foreign potash at the price fixed by the monopoly plus the tariff duties charged thereon or else go without it."

Tariff Changes The press of April 3 reports: "That there is a concerted movement on foot by certain interests to have Congress revise the tariff upward, and that legislation to carry it into effect will be introduced at the next session, was the declaration made by Frederic B. Shipley, president of the National Council of American Importers and Traders, Inc., at the annual meeting of the council April 2 at New York."

The Journal of Commerce for April 3 says: "Despite possible resulting gains in customs receipts, opposition to any tinkering with the tariff during the next two years is mounting. It is said that many efforts have been made during the past few weeks to 'sell' to those prominent in the present administration the desirability of revamping the administrative feature of the McCumber-Fordney Tariff act. It is generally admitted that this might be desirable, but it is declared would be highly unpractical...."

Texas Agriculture An editorial in Farm and Ranch for March 28 says: "The outlook for the future of Texas agriculture is brightening. Scattered over the State are a number of counties where business men are cooperating with farmers in the work of rebuilding the soil via crop rotation, diversification and livestock methods. Ten years of consistent effort ought to place these counties in the forefront of agriculture throughout the Nation. Instead of referring to Marlboro County, South Carolina, as a county where agriculture has come back into the profit column, agricultural workers in every State in the Union will cite Texas counties as outstanding examples of efficient work in soil building and in profitable farming. When Texas starts to win championship honors, others in the race might as well drop out. For two years Texas has won the grand championship in ton-litter contests. Texas leads all farming States in value of acre production and in total value of farm products. Texas is now preparing to show the way to better farming. Other counties should and probably will join the ranks of those already entering the work to build up farming into a profitable business."

Tobacco Growers Association An editorial in New England Homestead for March 28 says: "Affairs of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Association have been running on a more even keel the past few weeks. The highly desirable harmony and confidence will be further promoted by the voluntary action of President Alsop last week in asking that his salary be reduced from $30,000 to $20,000 per annum. The sound reasons he gave therefor will appeal to growers....It is true that the details and worries of selling a crop under adverse conditions are greater than when opposite conditions prevail. The manager is earning all of his $30,000, but farmers have earned much more than they are likely to get. We think President Alsop has demonstrated one of the big factors in leadership, namely, becoming a part of the movement upon the same footing. It attests the spirit of working with members instead of 'working them.' The decision of the association to organize a mutual hail insurance company is another important step just taken by the directors. Since the verdict has been agreed upon the proper thing is to get behind the movement and help in every way possible. The final cost is sure to be lessened as the numbers of cooperating growers increase. Farmers will go into this with their eyes wide open. They are to share any savings made and also to share any losses sustained. That is true cooperation and an inevitable principle of economics."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

April 3: Chicago hog prices closed at $14 for the top and $13.40 to $13.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $4.25 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $12; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.50; feeding lambs $14.25 to $15.50; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50; fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

New York Baldwin apples easier at $6 to $6.50 per bbl. Northwestern extra fancy Winesaps $3.50 to $4 per box. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage $1 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bu. hamper. New York yellow onions mostly $3 to $3.50 per 100 lb. sack in the East. New York sacked Round White potatoes about steady at $1 to $1.10 per 100 lbs. in leading markets. Delaware and Maryland sweet potatoes, yellow varieties $2 to $2.50 per bu. hamper; Tennessee Nancy Halls $2.50 to $2.75 in the Middle West. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, ripe and turning, generally steady at $6 to $6.75 per six basket carrier.

Grain prices quoted April 3: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.33 1/2 to $1.65 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.60 to $1.65. No.2 hard winter Kansas City $1.43 to $1.46; No.1 hard winter St. Louis $1.48 1/2; No.4 hard winter Chicago $1.44. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 89 1/2¢; No.3 mixed corn 78 1/2 to 80 1/2¢ Minneapolis. No.4 mixed corn Chicago 88 to 91¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.00 3/4 to $1.01 1/4; Kansas City 92 1/2 to 96¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 96 to 98 3/4¢; Minneapolis 84 1/2 to 86 1/2¢; St. Louis 90 to 97¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City 94 1/2¢; No.3 white corn Chicago 96 1/2¢; St. Louis 97¢. No. 3 white oats Chicago 36 1/4 to 41 1/4¢; Minneapolis 34 to 34 1/2¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 42¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 45¢.

Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets April 2: Twins 23¢; Cheddars 23¢; Daisies 23 1/2¢; Double Daisies 23 1/4¢; Longhorns 23 3/4¢; Square Prints 24¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 29 points, closing at 24.44¢ per lb.; New York May future contracts declined 36 points, closing at 24.27¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 3,	Apr. 2,	Apr. 3, 1924
20 Industrials	117.40	117.61	94.33
20 R.R. stocks	93.84	94.03	82.83

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 4.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 5 Section 1 April 6, 1925

THE LATE SECRETARY'S BOOK

The New York Times Book Review of April 5 devotes a page to a review of "Our Debt and Duty to the Farmer," by Henry C. Wallace. This says in part: "Probably none of his predecessors in office had to deal with problems at once so serious and pressing as those which confronted the late Mr. Wallace as Secretary of Agriculture. When he entered Mr. Harding's Cabinet in March, 1921, the country was experiencing the most severe agricultural depression in its history. The war years, it is true, had placed exceptional burdens and responsibilities upon the Department of Agriculture, but its chief concern during that time had been the stimulation of production, a program which, while it demanded the most energetic and vigorous prosecution, was relatively simple of execution. Mr. Wallace inherited the consequences of that program and of the abnormal conditions under which it was carried out. In the years since 1921 the depression has slowly lifted, but that is not to say that the American farmer can face the future with confidence. It was Mr. Wallace's belief that the root causes of the farmer's difficult situation are still inadequately recognized, and that there is no guarantee for the continued soundness of the country's agricultural condition unless by means of further remedial measures and a changed attitude on the part of commercial and industrial groups, whose interest it is to keep food prices down, agriculture is admitted to a larger share in the income of the Nation. He further believed that unless the farmer can face the future with confidence, the country as a whole can not. In support of that contention and in order to make clear the situation which has come about, he wrote this book. Nobody who wishes to understand that situation can afford to pass it by."

COTTON MANUFACTURERS' MEETING

The Washington Post to-day says: "The opening guns in a fight to be waged for an increased tariff on textile products are expected to be sounded at the meeting beginning at Washington to-day of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association., Coming closely on the heels of the warning by Senator Butler, of Massachusetts, that there is no tariff reduction in sight to enable Europe to pay its debts with commodities, the meeting has attracted a throng of prominent textile manufacturers and its proceedings will be watched carefully by other manufacturers, importers and merchants throughout the country.....The meeting will continue for three days. Morgan Butler, of Boston, son of Senator Butler, will preside. President Coolidge will address the manufacturers tonight. As if anticipating the full import of the meeting the Farmers' National Council, through its local representatives, yesterday called upon President Coolidge to direct the Tariff Commission to investigate the effects of the rates of the Fordney-McCumber Tariff act on metals and manufactures thereof, and on manufactures of cotton and wool."

BRITISH RUBBER MENACE

Harvey S. Firestone asserted in Washington April 4 that the British rubber restriction is again threatening progress and development of highway transportation and may increase the price of rubber tires to American motor owners from $100,000,000 to $300,000,000 this year. (Press, Apr. 5.)

Section 2

Agriculture as Business

The Boston Financial News for April 3 says: "Unless the modern farmer runs his acres on a business basis he has small chance of success. Old-time farming methods have passed; instead the successful farmer to-day must have all the foresight, systematic planning, and knowledge of the markets and general business conditions as the average business man. To begin with, farm lands throughout the country have, roughly, doubled in price. This means that the acres must be employed to the greatest advantage. In a factory, for instance, the manager lays out all his floor space and places his machines for the greatest efficiency. Every square foot of space must produce. The farmer has the same necessity of planting his crops, their selection and rotation. Every acre or part acre must count and bring in its return....One big farm problem is financing the crop. Most businesses are enabled to turn their active capital several times a year. With the exception of dairying, poultry, and the like, farm capital is turned and cash received but once a year. In the case of stock raising, this time is greatly lengthened. Because the business man's capital is more active is perhaps one reason why it is easier for him to obtain credit than for the farmer, but surely the farmer has greater need of credit facilities, and with the increasing business methods of crop production, this need is bound to be cared for. The greatest industry in this country to-day is farming, and the successful farmer is the all-around business man."

Artificial Silk

A Bradford, England, dispatch to the press of April 4 says: "Severe inroads are being made on the woolen goods industry by the greatly increased production of artificial silk throughout the world and by the success of cotton manipulators in imitating the appearance of wool in their fabrics, is the opinion expressed to-day by an expert in the wool trade here. According to this expert, who has written a survey of conditions in the wool trade, the prospects for constantly increasing output of artificial silk are likely to cause a gradual reduction in prices for the product, with the result that its use will be considerably extended to the disadvantage, naturally, of woolen goods. Extension of the sale of artificial silk must exert an important influence on the price of virgin wool, according to this expert. Moreover, according to the same textile authority, the manipulation of cotton has been so perfected recently and is being carried out so successfully that cotton cloths manufactured to counterfeit the appearance of woolens deceive all buyers except those who understand and are able to detect these new tricks of the trade."

An item in the press of April 5 says: "Manufacture of artificial silk, an industry virtually created since the war, has become one of the most important in Italy. In 1922 Italy was seventh in production of artificial silk. This year it is second, producing more than half as much as the United States. It is confident of continued strides. A Turin corporation manufacturing artificial silk has raised its capital from 600,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 lire. It proposes to increase its gross output fourfold. Artificial silk sells at about one-third the cost of real silk, but this price represents between two and three times the actual cost of manufacture. Hence there is an extraordinary profit. The fabric is based on wood fiber. The celluloid element, which formerly made it inflammable, has been rendered innocuous. The better qualities are, to the naked eye, indistinguishable from real silk. Artificial silk has almost entirely conquered the Italian domestic market. Real silk is now a luxury."

Butter Production in Alabama

Manufacturers Record for April 2 says: "Alabama's butter production was much greater than shown by figures in the article on southern dairying in 'The South's Development,' according to H.C.Bates, general agricultural agent of the Southern Railway Development Service. In that article it was stated that Alabama produced 398,000 pounds of butter in 1920 and 831,000 pounds in 1923. 'According to the State College of Agriculture at Auburn,' writes Mr. Bates, 'there were some 5,250,000 pounds of butter manufactured in 1922, and in December of 1923 their estimate was 6,000,000 pounds, having the figures for the 11 months of 1923 before them. I am wondering if this was not a typographical error....the creamery at Selma in 1920 probably made more butter than figures show for 1923 for the entire State.' The author of the article in question, Craddock Goins of Milwaukee, writes the Manufacturers Record that there was no typographical error, stating that the figures were quoted from reports by the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Goins is inclined to agree with Mr. Bates that these figures do not do Alabama justice."

Farm Financing

A Kansas City dispatch to the press of April 4 says: "Farmers in the Tenth Federal Reserve district, as well as those who are located in the St. Louis, Dallas and the Minneapolis districts and most of the Chicago districts, are experiencing the novel situation of having hired capital or borrowed money make a profit for them. They are realizing the difference between taking a profit from their farm productions which they have financed with hired capital or borrowed money, and taking a loss from farm production financed with hired capital or borrowed money. A close survey of the agricultural situation in the Central West and down into the Southwest shows that a large majority of farmers do not finance their own operations throughout the year, but employ money, hired from banks and loaning agencies, to carry them over the periods when they have no major farm crop or production to market. This is particularly true of the grain, cotton, rice and tobacco farmers and fruit growers."

Grain Prices

Prairie Farmer for April 4 says: "Grain prices have never flucuated so widely under peace conditions as they have within the past few months. The Grain Marketing Company is handling a large part of the cash grain at Chicago. Grain men agree that control of cash grain means control of the market, and that such control can be used to manipulate it in either direction and make millions out of the future market. The managers of the Grain Marketing Company have agreed not to speculate. Violations of this agreement would be difficult to detect. Have they withstood the temptation? Will farmers be safe with such tremendous power over the market in the hands of a few men? Is there any collusion between the operations of the 'Palm Beach crowd' and the managers of the Grain Marketing Company? We do not know, but we wish we did."

Land Values

Price Current-Grain Reporter for April 1 says: "In an interview with the new Secretary of Agriculture, which has just been made public, he is quoted as saying the farmer is not in favor of deflating the value of his land, which, he says, is worth three or four times what it was in 1900. A good many hundreds of other business men were not in favor of the post-war deflation which confronted them, but they had to take the medicine even though it was bitter, and they took it like men, and were shortly on the way to financial recovery. Farming land which costs four hundred dollars an acre, or which is inventoried at that price, means an

interest charge of from $24 to $32 per acre, and if only an average yield of either wheat, corn, oats, rye or barley is grown thereon it will not meet the interest charge. Under such circumstances, three alternatives are open to the farmer: He must grow more of the same or a more profitable crop; he must sell out and quit farming, or he must deflate. The problem is for him to solve and we are confident he will, if given just a little more time, without too much governmental meddling, solve it, and solve it right."

Paish on Foreign Trade

A Cincinnati dispatch to the press of April 4 says: "America is eager to sell, but very unwilling to buy, and unless this attitude changes the United States will not continue to hold her present position as the world's greatest investment banker, Sir George Paish, distinguished British economist, said at Cincinnati, April 3, before the Bankers Foreign Trade Association. Circumstances incident to the World War elevated this Nation to its present position as the creditor Nation of the world, but unless American financial leaders and business men recognize that the United States must purchase from Europe in addition to extending credit to foreign industries through loans or investment, before European nations can buy American products, this country will never be a successful world trader, the speaker said. America's attitude is forcing Europe to restore Russia as the source of foodstuffs, which, that Nation was prior to the war, Sir George declared, a position thrust upon America by war conditions. As long as America is willing to extend loans, she can sell her surplus goods, but this operation can not continue indefinitely. Europe must be allowed to make return for the enormous amount of capital and credit already extended, and the large sums still needed, in product and goods. 'Otherwise Europe will be unable to purchase the American surplus and this condition will reflect in improvement of American foodstuff producers and industries. It is not a question of ethics, but of an economic principle, learned through experience.' Sir George characterized the Dawes plan as the necessary step toward restoration of Europe. He said that it had brought reason where there had been no reason before, but stated that, even so, the Dawes plan was only a temporary measure, to be replaced by a permanent plan after economic restoration has begun."

Price Fixing

Wheat Growers Journal for March 31 says: "Dr. Jardine has made his first considerable utterance as Secretary of Agriculture on the subject of relief for the farmers. He reiterates the position he held while living in Kansas, to-wit, price fixation is anathema and that help can be expected through means of reasonable credit and through further development of cooperative marketing machinery. The majority of farmers will agree that price fixation is anathema. In fact in the few instances in which it has been tried, the price was fixed against the farmer. Means of reasonable credit are desirable, of course. Development of marketing machinery through cooperative efforts sounds good and is good. Virtually everything along that line accomplished by the farmers so far has been against a perfect barrage of hostility--court decisions, organized market opposition and manipulated disorder in the ranks of the farmers themselves obtained, on cooperative lines, was from Congress itself, which, against a terrific howl from the powers that be, tried to exempt purely cooperative organizations from the anti-trust laws and so differentiate them from combinations in restraint of trade. Thus cooperative marketing has largely made its own way. Further development

will follow. The farmer, in fact, has received little governmental help, and, in truth, did not expect much. He has watched the Government feed manufacturers with a gold spoon and has taken his own bitter medicine out of a gourd dipper. He has kicked some, but usually has not voted the way he kicked.,...."

Russia

The Wall Street Journal for April 3 says: "There are no trustworthy figures of the present population of Russia, but whether it be 130,000,000 or 160,000,000, every decent American citizen is only too glad to 'recognize' those afflicted people, for what such recognition may be worth. No unbiased person can consider the present cutthroat oligarchy at Moscow as representing anything but itself. Recognition of the so-called Russian Government and recognition of Russia have been deliberately confused in the public mind. In any real sense of the word as civilized people understand it, there is no government in Russia to recognize. The gang which has made government there impossible has its hand against all men. It makes no pretence at consistency so long as it continues to hold Russia by the throat. It deliberately destroyed as much as it could of the fixed forms of capital in Russia and confiscated all the liquid capital which could not escape. It now appeals to the world for more capital. There are two sides to the Soviet Government, one the complement to the other. The Third Internationale, which is in the business of propaganda to upset all governments, can be repudiated by the official Soviet. The official Soviet can be repudiated by the Third Internationale if it makes any agreement to refrain from creating disturbance within the boundaries of a friendly state.....If a population of upward of a hundred million people can not dispose of this kind of rule by a class which admits it never numbered a million, there is at present nothing useful to be said...."

South African Cotton

An editorial in South African Cotton Growers' Journal for March says: "Cotton growing has incfeased enormously in the last few years, and the experts of the Department of Agriculture have been able to gather full particulars about the habits of the plant, its enemies, and the means of combatting them, its growth, and matters appertaining to seed selection, so that there is now practically no obstacle to the development of a great industry. There are millions of acres in Africa suited to the crop and the climatic conditions of the area tend to infuse intense optimism into the outlook of the growers themselves. The qaality of the cotton already produced, more than the equal of the American product, has laid the foundation of a great reputation on the Overseas markets...."

A London dispatch to the press of April 4 says: "Mr. Nobbs, formerly Director of Agriculture for Southern Rhodesia, in a special article on the outlook for extension of the cotton growing areas of Rhodesia, says that within a few years the Rhodesian farmers will recognize the profit possibilities in cotton and will increase their acreage of that staple in some districts, if not in others. The official forecast of cotton plantings in Rhodesia for 1925 indicate that the area will be about 60,000 acres. Mr. Nobbs believes that cotton, instead of replacing other crops in Rhodesia, will probably take its place as a rotation crop with a view to the expansion of the total cultivated area in Rhodesia."

Spanish Wheat Imports

A Madrid dispatch to the press of April 3 states that Spain is about to open the gates to the importation of small quantities of wheat so as to make up for the acute shortage in Spain. Customs duties may be modified if circumstances require.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 4: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.90 for the top and $13.30 to $13.80 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $4.25 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $12; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.30; feeding lambs $14.25 to $15.50; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes stronger in eastern markets at $1 to $1.15 per 100 pounds. Florida Spaulding Rose low as $7 per barrel in Philadelphia; weaker in most markets at $8 to $9; Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage weaker at $1.25 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Texas domestic flat type generally stronger at $2.50 to $2.75 per barrel crate in midwestern markets; weaker at $12 per ton f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples higher in New York City at $6.50 to $6.75 per barrel; slightly weaker in other markets; ranging mostly $6 to $6.50. New York and midwestern yellow onions $3 to $4.25 sacked per 100 pounds in most markets. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, ripe and turning, tend upward at $6 to $7 per six-basket carrier. Virginia Savoy spinach higher in the East, ranging $1.50 to $2.00 per barrel.

Grain prices quoted April 4: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.37 to $1.69. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.63; No.4 red winter Chicago $1.32. No.3 hard winter St. Louis $1.43. No.3 mixed corn Chicago 92¢; Minneapolis 81 1/4 to 83 1/4¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 98 1/4 to 99 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 92 1/2 to 96 1/2¢; Minneapolis 87 1/4 to 89 1/4¢; St. Louis 95¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 37 1/2 to 41¢; Minneapolis 35 7/8 to 36 3/8¢; St. Louis 43 1/2 to 44 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43¢; Chicago 40 1/2¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 12 points, closing at 24.32¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 14 points, closing at 24.13¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 4,	Apr. 3,	Apr. 4, 1924
20 Industrials	118.25	117.40	94.69
20 R.R. stocks	94.71	93.84	83.43

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 6.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 6 Section 1 April 7, 1925

ARMOUR-MORRIS CASE According to the press to-day, validity of the acquisition by Armour & Co. of the business of Morris & Co., meat packers, should be decided by the courts, Government counsel contended at the opening of the final argument on the question yesterday at the Department of Agriculture. Walter L. Fisher, special Government counsel, urged Secretary Jardine to issue an order against the merger, so the courts could pass finally upon the question and declared that unless this was done there would be nothing to prevent Swift & Co., the next largest packer, from buying out Wilson & Co. This would further lessen competition in the industry, he argued, and eventually would lead to one large monopoly controlling the entire meat packing business.

THE PRESIDENT AT COTTON MEN'S MEETING Addressing the convention of the National Cotton Manufacturers' Association, the President last night, defended the giving of preference to home industry as a factor in its growth and contrasted the American policy of free export of raw materials with discriminatory practices of some other countries. The manufacturers present received no encouragement from the President on their proposal that the schedules on manufactured cotton goods should be increased. Incidental to his review of American progress, the expansion of the textile industry and the building up of mass production, which, he said, were unequaled in any other country, the President mildly warned industry that the Government expected it to conform to the law and observe human and helpful relations with its employees. In speaking of the policy of protecting the home market for American industry, the President said: "The towering stature of our industrial structure as we see it to-day is the best--is indeed the complete vindication of this policy. The fact that our buying and consuming capacity is so great proves that, despite inequities, we have on the whole maintained fairer distribution of the proceeds of industry than has been possible in less favored communities. We are reaching a very fair approximation of democracy in industry." Reviewing the development of American industry and touching upon the immediate problems of an industry, like cotton manufacturing, in its connection to the Government and the world, the President contrasted the export policy of the United States with that of other great nations, and commiserated with the cotton-goods manufacturers for the uncertainty of their industry, due to the whimsical changes of fashion or taste, particularly feminine fashion and taste.

Criticism of the American industrial policy, which keeps home markets for home manufacturers by means of the protective tariff, Mr. Coolidge asserted, is unjustifiable. The manner in which the United States permits free and untrammeled export of its raw materials, he said, constituted a lesson to the world. Citing the example of some nations in this regard, he continued: "If anybody desires information about export taxes, export bounties, valorization projects, discriminatory taxation and the like, and how these increase the cost of articles which we have to import, he may well study the policies which various countries apply to such staples as coffee, nitrates, potash, rubber, tin, pulpwood, cocoa, sisal, quinine and more than a few others. Each country has that right. We do not dispute it. But while our policy of tariff protection is in line with the well-nigh universal rule of the world, our policy of absolute freedom in the export of raw materials or primary products is one of notable and exceptional liberality." (Press, Apr. 7.)

Section 2

America's Cattle Shrinkage

Shrinkage of a million head of cattle a year in America's herds as disclosed by Government figures understates the actual drop in the supply, it is indicated by Commissioner Robert A. Cooper, head of the Federal Farm Loan Board, in an article in the current American Bankers Association Journal. At the request of President Coolidge, Commissioner Cooper recently made an extended tour of inspection of the western livestock States. He reports that liquidation has run its full course in this industry which is now financially on the upgrade, declaring that war-time over-production has been followed by decreased herds in every State west of the Mississippi River. "Cattle, undoubtedly, have struck bottom, and liquidation has run its course," Commissioner Cooper says. "Constructive upward tendencies are much in evidence. The overproduction which was a war legacy, has found a counterpart in the past few years in decreased herds in every State in the cattle sections west of the Mississippi River. Government statistics estimate the number of head as being 1,000,000 fewer in 1924 than was true in 1923, and an even greater reduction is forecast in 1925 by the latest figures available in the Department of Agriculture. During a recent trip through the cattle regions of the West, I was often struck with the testimony of speakers, who indicated that there were fewer cattle in their States than ever before. The surplus was always in an adjoining State, but when we reached that adjoining State a scarcity invariably prevailed there also. The evidence all goes to the conclusion that the number of cattle on farms and ranges is overstated in the Government's figures. A cattle loan hereafter should be in better repute than it has been for some years past. It will be a safe and sound loan, because it will be based on values which have reached an irreducible minimum, made to men who have proved their skill and ability to handle livestock, and closed following a species of examination and exact count and inspection that never before prevailed". (Press statement, Amer. Bankers Assoc., Apr. 7.)

Canadian Agricultural Surveys

The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture (Montreal) for April 1 says: "The agricultural survey is not a new thing. It has been followed in other countries to a considerable extent. Had it been conducted more widely and energetically in Canada, numerous commissions named to look into agricultural conditions and progress could have been dispensed with, since we would already have had sound data and an intimate knowledge of conditions both upon our smaller farms and our average farms throughout the Dominion. The successful Canadian farmer, that is, the man who has obtained the greatest financial return from his farming operations, is usually well known to all agricultural workers and to the public, and his business methods are equally well known. On the other hand, unfortunately, both agricultural workers and the public know all too little about the large majority of farmers working the small farm located on back concessions and roads. For this reason all will, we think, agree that agricultural workers, agricultural colleges, departments of agriculture and Government experimental stations should have available the result of a careful, detailed, agricultural survey covering thoroughly a number of townships in each county and eventually planned to cover every township in every county. Such a survey would cover a wide field, including soil survey, livestock survey, crop survey, farm economics, etc., etc. If the survey workers in all these lines could get together and develop some relatively simple plan whereby the same men could acquire the information and data desired in all these survey lines,

it would do much to establish the confidence of the farmer in these men and in their attempts to get sound information. The limitations met by agricultural colleges and experimental stations in their attempts to study, say, crop production, are admitted by all agricultural workers. These institutions are, in the first place, all too limited in numbers and almost invariably they are too limited in area to study crop production, even upon a scale equal to that of the average farmer. Very often also they are located upon a type of land which represents a relatively small percentage of the soil of the surrounding district. Consequently, no matter how carefully cost of production figures are gathered upon an experimental farm, they may or may not represent the actual cost of production of farm crops in that district. If this is the case where most modern and improved methods are used in collating the figures, what are the costs of producing crops on poorer soils and with less modern and improved methods? It is evident then that the agricultural survey, even though somewhat imperfect, will supplement and act as a check upon the results obtained by these institutions themselves. There is another aspect of the question, viz, that the average farmer on the back concession roads rarely visits our agricultural institutions, reads but little agricultural literature, yet, on the other hand, he is usually the man who requires the greatest amount of assistance in adopting more modern methods and availing himself of the latest information. Capable men on survey work will do much towards opening the minds of these to the possibilities of their profession, to stimulate an interest in the agricultural press, college, school, experimental station and illustration or demonstration farm, and all similar educational institutions. One of the greatest needs at the present time is an intimate knowledge of costs of producing farm crops and those other products which go to make up the total farm revenue. Without an intimate knowledge of the cost of crop production, disposed of either as cash crops or fed to livestock, without an intimate knowledge of the cost of production of livestock and livestock products, it will be utterly impossible to convince the farmer or other business man that a change in his methods is required to meet present industrial and economical conditions. Without an intimate knowledge of costs of production, it is impossible for a farmer so to vary his lines of production from year to year as best to meet world market conditions. It is impossible for him to appreciate the importance of quality in product, and most certainly it will be utterly impossible to organize and stimulate that cooperative effort which is so extremely important and advisable in the regulation of agricultural production, marketing, establishment of permanent markets, etc....."

Cotton

The Wall Street Journal for April 6 says: "Increase of cotton spindles in the United States from 32,000,000 in 1913 to almost 38,000,000 at the present time has given rise to some apprehension of overexpansion in the industry. That there is no indication that any overexpansion has taken place, in the United States or in the industry of the world itself, is pointed out by the National Bank of Commerce of New York, in an interesting article on the cotton manufacturing industry. Some valuable facts and figures are brought forward to substantiate this conclusion. While spindleage in the United States has increased 18% since the war, the population has increased 16%. In the same time working hours have been reduced 8%. The increase in spindleage, therefore, does not keep pace with population. The number of bales of cotton consumed in our spindles in 1923 was 20% larger than in 1924. If we stopped right there,

then overexpansion might seem proved. But the bank's analysis follows the cotton from the spindles to the looms. It shows that the output of 7,000,000,000 yards of cloth in 1923 was only 3% greater than in 1924. Heavier cloth for automobile tires and other industrial uses is one explanation. Outside of the United States there has been no material addition to spindleage since 1913, except in the Far East. There it has been notable, amounting to 7,000,000 spindles, thus bringing the total of Japan, China and India up to 16,000,000. But taking the Far East and the United States together there has been a total addition of only 9%, or no more than the population increase. It is true that 7,000,000 new spindles in the Far East, where working hours are long, would count more than an equal number there. On the other hand, England, with 57,000,000 spindles, has reduced the working week of 55½ hours to 48, which would more than offset the Asiatic increase. Judging the situation by pre-war conditions, the mills have not inflated their equipment. They have barely kept pace with population. The great trouble with the industry is that production of raw cotton has not kept pace with the increase of machinery for its consumption. This spindleage increase, as worked out in the article quoted, would call for 4,500,000 more bales of cotton a year. Instead of adding that much to the supply the world production has been under the pre-war average until 1924, when, due to a freak of climate in the United States, the total world crop was about 1,000,000 ables larger than the pre-war average. This offered a slight temporary relief, but does not permanently cure the trouble. Our cotton industry to-day is not suffering because of an overexpansion of consumptive machinery; nor is it suffering from a lack of consumers of goods. It is handicapped by a lack of the raw material sufficient to give a constant supply at a price to permit the manufacture of goods at a cost attractive to consumers."

Farmer Rights In an editorial on "Farmer Justice," Sioux City Live Stock Record for April 2 says: "All the farmer wants, says Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, is justice. That is a large order. Ordinarily justice should not be difficult to obtain, but every person who has watched a lawsuit realizes that each side has a different view as to justice, says the Indianapolis News. With equally diverging views all of the different forces that have been trying for several years to help the farmer have failed to agree on a remedy. One group has placed great emphasis on credit. Another group wishes prices fixed. Still another wished for a minimum price with the understanding that the law of supply and demand should take its course and the farmer be permitted to benefit from unusual upward fluctuations. There have been advocates of a multiplicity of laws and of no laws at all. There is a hopeful sound about the expression of Secretary Jardine. He would have less paternalistic legislation and a greater effort to place agriculture on a basis with other forms of business. If the new Secretary can administer his office with equal wisdom and bring the farmer into the position he ought to have, the country will be grateful."

Grain Exports Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 1,855,000 bushels compared with 1,711,000 bushels the previous week. Commerce Department figures yesterday gave the following comparisons between last week's exports and those of the week before: Wheat, 1,237,000, bushels against 859,000 bushels; rye, 322,000 against 251,000; oats, 66,000 against 170,000; corn, 116,000 against 107,000; barley, 114,000 against 324,000. Canadian grains shipped from United States

ports last week amounted to 1,935,000 compared with 1,796,000 bushels the previous week, while exports of combined United States and Canadian flour last week were 347,000 barrels against 634,000 barrels the week before. (Press, Apr. 7.)

Price Average

A New Haven dispatch to the press of April 6 states that Professor Irving Fisher's index number of American commodity prices last week, based on 100 as the average of 1913, is 157.1, which is the lowest since the last week of December and compares with 160.3 a week ago, 162.2 two weeks ago, 163.4 three weeks ago and 164.1 four weeks ago. The average for the full month of March is 161.3, comparing with 162.6 in February, 161.9 in January, 155.9 in December and 153.5 in November.

Purebred Livestock

Western Breeders Journal for March 26 says: "Is it really necessary to talk so much about quality in livestock? This paper devotes time, space and energy to better livestock exhortation every week in the year. Do conditions warrant it? Splendid purebred animals are so much in evidence and are so much discussed that appearances would indicate that the quality idea had been pretty well 'sold' to the farmers of the country. The fact is that nothing is more urgently necessary from a production point of view than quality livestock. This applies to every phase of American agricultural activity. Dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, sheep and horses, all need the improving influence of better blood. In our morning mail to-day came the information that on 2,415,966 farms in the Southern States there was not a single purebred animal. The proportion of scrub stock on farms in other parts of the country is not so large, but it is large enough. Here in Oregon, where the little Jersey leads the world, there are cattle in large numbers that are utterly unable to justify their existence from a utility point of view. Their owners must keep them for the same mysterious reason that a sentimental woman supports a shiftless and unproductive husband. The time is past when agriculture could get by with inferior stuff. Farmers of all kinds might just as well make up their minds that there will be nonpermanent prosperity for them without efficiency, and that there can be no efficiency without quality. The use of good stock is essential to both pleasure and profit. The first duty of every breed organization in the country, we think, is to bring home to every farmer the vital need of quality, and the futility of attempting to 'make the grade' with anything less than the best stock his means will permit him to acquire."

Wool Prices

The New York Times for April 7 says: "There are two sets of opinions in the wool trade at present. One of them is that prices have about touched bottom and the other is that still lower levels must be reached to encourage trading in a large way. Judging merely from the course of transactions, the weight of opinion appears to be with the last named. There seems to be no one harboring the thought of an advance, it being conceded that the conditions in the manufacturing and sale of woolens are against this. Sales in this country are halting, although there is a fair amount of wool being imported. For the week ended March 28 the imports were about 7,500,000 pounds, about one-quarter of which was carpet wool."

World Food Supply

Prof. Edward Penck, speaking before the Prussian Academy of Sciences, made the prognostication that in three hundred years more the world's cupboard would be bare. Counting the present area fit for cultivation, which is limited, he reasoned that food can be supplied under the

best possible management for eight or nine billion people. At the present rate of increase, this number will be reached in 300 years. Professor Penck added a hopeful qualification, however, in the conjectur that long before that time shall have elapsed the situation will be relieved, partly by reclamation of deserts and swamps and partly by the discovery of methods of manufacturing synthetic foods. (Science News-Letter, Apr. 4.)

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 6: New York sacked Round White potatoes steady to firm at $1 to $1.25 per 100 pounds in eastern markets. Northern sacked Round Whites 10¢ to 15¢ lower at 75¢ to 85¢ carlot sales in Chicago. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions, commercial pack, ranged $2.50 to $3.00 per crate; $1.75 to $1.85 f.o.b. Laredo. South Carolina and Florida pointed type cabbage ranged $1.10 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. New York Baldwin apples sold slightly stronger at $6.25 to $7.00 per barrel, top of $7.50 in New York. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, slightly weaker at $5.50 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier. Asparagus generally lower. Georgia and South Carolina Green, large sizes, mostly $4 to $4.50 per dozen bunch crate. California stock $4.50 to $5.00.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.70 for the top and $13.20 to $13.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $4.25 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $12. Fat lambs $14.25 to $16.50; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43 1/2¢; Boston 44¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Chicago 41 1/4¢.

Grain prices quoted April 6: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.41 1/2 to $1.72 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.67; Kansas City $1.61 to $1.68. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.48 to $1.53; Kansas City $1.49 to $1.53. No.3 mixed corn Chicago 93 to 93 1/2¢; Minneapolis 86 to 88¢. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 90 to 91¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.01 to $1.02; Kansas City 95 to 96¢; No.3 yellow corn Chicago 95 1/4 to $1.01 1/4; Minneapolis 92 to 95¢; St. Louis 97 to 99¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City 93. No.3 white corn Chicago 97 1/2¢; St. Louis 97 1/2 to 98¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 41 3/4 to 47 1/2¢; Minneapolis 37 3/8 to 37 7/8¢; St. Louis 44 to 45¢; Kansas City 44 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 26 points, closing at 24.58¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 26 points, closing at 24.39¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 6,	Apr. 4,	Apr. 5, 1924
20 Industrials	119.43	118.25	94.05
20 R.R. stocks	95.81	94.71	83.23

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 7.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 7 Section 1 April 8, 1925

ARMOUR COUNSEL DEFENDS MERGER The press to-day states that arguments defending the validity of the purchase by Armour & Co. of the business of Morris & Co., meat packers, April 7 was brought to the attention of Secretary Jardine, who is to decide whether the merger violated the Packers and Stockyards act. Counsel for the two concerns prepared an analysis of the testimony of several hundred witnesses, taken in preliminary hearings in Kansas City and other meat packing centers. At the opening of the hearing yesterday Government counsel urged Secretary Jardine to issue a rule against the merger and allow the courts to decide the question.

HOOVER BEFORE COTTON ASSOCIATION. Approval of legitimate trade associations and maintenance by them of sound statistical service, together with uniformity in contract practice, were reiterated by Secretary Hoover yesterday in a short address at the Commerce Department to delegates attending the semi-annual meeting of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers. Population growth and assured transportation had had their effect on commerce, Mr. Hoover told the manufacturers, adding that the latter had a tendency to reduce individual orders by assuring retailers of speedy delivery. Although this "thrusts upon the manufacturers the burden of the country's stock," the Secretary saw no remedy for the situation and the industry would "have to accommodate itself to it as long as we have an effective transportation machine." Knowledge of raw material and stocks on hand made for stability of industry, Mr. Hoover observed, in advocating a sound statistical service. He declared he saw no way of obtaining representation in industry without trade associations, and that those engaged in fixing prices and production against public interest were "in an extremely small minority." A knowledge of current prices open to the public, he said, was insurance against fraud and misrepresentation, although information disseminated within a group for the control of price movement was against public interest. (Press, Apr. 8.)

MCNARY'S RECLAMATION PLAN A national reclamation program which he will advocate at the next session of Congress was made public April 7 by Senator McNary of Oregon, chairman of the irrigation and reclamation committee. Senator McNary's plan embraces all forms of reclamation, including the drainage of swamp lands in the South, the placing of water on the arid regions of the intermountain and Pacific Coast States, removal of stumps from cutover lands in the Great Lakes region, the flooding of lands in the Mississippi Valley States to provide subsoil irrigation, restoration of soil in the New England States, flood control on the Colorado and other rivers, and construction of dams which will develop hydroelectric power. The Senator announced that he would propose establishment by Congress of a revolving fund of from $350,000,000 to $500,000,000 to capitalize reclamation projects approved by the Secretary of the Interior and incorporated under the laws of the State or States in which they might be situated. "The Government needs a comprehensive and constructive policy of reclamation which can be invoked whenever the needs of an expanded agriculture require," said Senator McNary. (Press, Apr. 8.)

Section 2

Bakery Merger Plans Abandoned

Plans for a merger of several large baking companies have been definitely abandoned, according to an announcement by officials of the Empire Baking Corporation, which was to have been the holding company. The inability to acquire certain properties was the reason ascribed. This was due to income tax difficulties encountered in the negotiations. All subscriptions to the company's stock have been canceled and the amount refunded. The proposed merger involved the Consumers Baking Company of Kansas City, the New England Bakeries and several other smaller concerns engaged in the same line of business. (Press, Apr. 7.)

Cotton Industry

An editorial in The New York Times for April says: "The cotton manufacturers who listened last evening in Washington to an address by the President may have expected to hear from him something about the need of a higher tariff on cotton goods. But he avoided that theme, except by remote inference. President denies that our tariff laws are selfish. He points to the fact that our market is entirely free to those who wish to come here to buy raw cotton, for example. He thinks that our policy of absolute freedom in the export of raw materials is one of 'exceptional liberality.' We might have set up a little monopoly in cotton. True, the President remembered in time that the Constitution forbids the levying of an export tax, and he also remarked that a favorable trade balance in our international commerce depends upon exports of cotton, of which we sold abroad last year more than $950,000,000 worth. The survey of the cotton industry made by the President is on the whole encouraging. He admits that there are some weak spots. He does not, however, refer to the increasingly sharp competition which the New England mills have to meet from manufacturers in the South. The President believes that a broad view of the situation as a whole does not afford reason for serious concern about the outlook...."

Electricity on the Farm

Owen D. Young, chairman of the board of the General Electric Company, declared in an address at Albany, N.Y., April 6, that farmers should consider the possibilities of electric power on the farms, power supply companies should see that the farm market is supplied, machinery manufacturers should meet farm requirements and the State of New York should take advantage of its vast waterpower resources for the economic benefit of all. Speaking before a conference of representatives of farmers' organizations and electric companies, Mr. Young stressed the need of electric power and machinery on New York State farms and outlined the possibilities of creating and meeting the demands of such a market. Explaining that electricity would lighten farm labors and increase farm profits by lowering production costs, Mr. Young said the farmer should be openminded as to new methods and should cooperate with his neighbors that all might benefit by electric service. He suggested that the power company would find an extensive market in the farms and, while it might be under added obligation in extending the lines, there would be found in the farm service the means of diversifying the power load. Manufacturers were urged to study the application of machinery to farm uses, a neglected field, but one that would be profitable once power lines opened the source of supply.

Farm Taxation

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 7 says: "According to a recent outgiving from the Department of Agriculture at Washington taxation based on property values tends to press more heavily upon farm owners than on other taxpayers, because farm land yields a lower

income in proportion to its value than other land. In studies made lately in certain districts in the Middle West it was found that rented farms yielded before taxes 3.8 per cent upon their capital value. Rented city real estate yielded 4.6 per cent and bank property yielded 8 per cent. Thus if a uniform levy of 2 per cent were placed upon these different classes of property the tax would absorb 25 per cent of the return upon the bank property, 42.5 per cent of that upon city real estate and 52.5 per cent of that upon farm land. Although press dispatches are silent on the subject it is apparent that the Department of Agriculture believes that these figures are typical of the earning power of rural land as compared with city property regardless whether such farm land is rented or actually cultivated by the owner. Assuming the substantial accuracy of the facts as thus stated in the premises, the difficulty with which the farmer is faced in this connection might be stated in another and more accurate way, namely, that farm lands, particularly since the era of speculation in agricultural lands taking place during the war and early post-war years, are a good deal more highly capitalized in relation to their earnings than is the case in most of our cities. Viewed in this way, the situation assumes a rather different aspect. The trouble then appears to be not so much with the system of taxation as with the business judgment of the farmer in acquiring title to land. The impulse to own land is in the country districts not unnaturally much stronger than in urban districts. For this fact there are certain sound economic reasons, but it is a notorious fact that all too many of our farmers have never come to a realizing sense of the fact that land may be too dear to own. Real estate speculators have long been aware that such is the case and have often reaped golden harvests at the farmers' expense. A number of excuses have at one time or another been advanced for this lack of good business judgment on the part of the farm owner. Two well known professors of agriculture at one of our leading universities some months ago came forward with the assertion that the reason many farmers owned land for which they paid too much is that such agricultural producers were born at the wrong time. In explanation of this rather cryptic utterance it was pointed out that when rural youths who elected to till the soil for a livelihood reached a certain age they began to look around for land on which they could spend their life efforts. The price they had to pay for such land, therefore, was in large measure fixed in accordance with whether they happened to reach that age at a time when land was high or low. If business men in rural districts permit themselves in any such manner as this or to any such degree as is thus indicated to be driven into paying exorbitant prices for the capital equipment they need for their life's work they certainly have no one but themselves to blame for the low yield on invested funds they find themselves in later years under the necessity of accepting. Conditions in this respect are without doubt abnormal at the present time. Of that fact the mortgage situation as disclosed by the latest census amply shows. But the fact remains that there has always been a tendency in the direction of the situation now the subject of complaint. Here is a problem which ought to engage the attention of our reformers in much greater degree and more effectively than is at present the case."

Food Costs

Compilations completed April 7 by the Department of Labor on retail food costs in twenty of the fifty-one cities for which monthly reports are received, showed a decrease in thirteen cities during the month ending March 15. The maximum decrease of 3 per cent was reported

at Fall River, Mass., Portland, Me., and Providence, R.I. A 2 per cent drop was shown for Boston, Bridgeport, New Haven and Scranton. The six cities showing an increase, with one stationary, were Cleveland, Detroit and Peoria, Ill., 2 per cent, and Buffalo, Indianapolis and Milwaukee 1 per cent. (Press, Apr. 8.)

German Living Costs — A Berlin dispatch to the press of April 6 states that the German official cost-of-living index is now issued once a month. The figure for March is 136, against 135.6 in February and 123.8 at the beginning of the year. The index of wholesale prices as of April 1 stands at 132.2, comparing with 132.9 one week earlier and 136.7 in the last week of February.

Metric System — A New York dispatch to the press of April 7 states that the United States and Great Britain are the only two nations which have not adopted the metric system of weights and measures, according to the official report which was made public at New York April 6. Speakers declared that the metric system would be in general use in this country within eight or ten years. The association now has a bill before Congress which provides for the transition to the metric system within ten years. Many foreign nations made the change within a space of from thre to five years.

Mexican Trade Tour — A Mexico City dispatch to the press of April 7 states that dispatches from Torreon reports that a trade excursion sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Laguana Cotton District of the State of Coahuila will leave soon for the United States.

Rye Export — A New York dispatch to the press of April 7 states that within the last week about 7,000,000 bushels of rye, stored at Baltimore, has been sold for export, considerably more than half of it for direct shipment to Russia, it was learned April 6 from Robert G. Brandt, a local grain broker, who, with J. M. Dennis of Baltimore, negotiated the sale of the grain to exporters. The fact that Russia has been buying enormou quantities of grain in this market is significant because, normally, Russia is a large exporter of grain. It is possible that most of the 7,000,000 bushels of rye will find its way to Russia eventually, as that portion of the shipment not booked directly for Russia is routed to Germany and other Baltic ports, where it may be trans-shipped to Russia or ground into flour and reshipped into that country. The deal involved about $9,000,000. Considerably more than half of the grain will be cleared from Baltimore by April 15 and the remainder by April 25, at the latest.

Tea Crop — A London dispatch to the press of April 7 states that the quality of the later 1924 crop of teas was disappointing. Whether due to climat conditions or coarse plucking, or both, it has caused the Indian Tea Association to recommend the improvement of the quality of the 1925 crop by producing teas of a standard to meet present day requirements and by avoiding the manufacture of coarse and stalky teas.

Texas Cotton Association Meeting

An Austin dispatch to the press of April 7 says: "Furtherance of methods of instituting arbitration boards in the mill centers of this country and in the principal importing centers of Europe and of establishing agencies abroad for the controlling of cotton of the association formed the most important developments of the fourteenth annual meeting of the Texas Cotton Association, just ended here....In view of the superiority of British laws and trade customs for building up foreign trade and the ambitious plans of that country to increase production in its possessions, F. C. Fulbright, attorney of the Houston Cotton Exchange, warned the American cotton exporter of the legal liabilities in selling abroad, especially since the war."

Wheat Market

A London dispatch to the press of April 7 states that grain trade circles ascribe the astonishing collapse in world wheat market prices partly to the advance in money rates at New York and London, but the feeling now is that wheat prices have about touched bottom, at least for the time being. The course of the market during the next few weeks will depend somewhat on whether or not the Continent comes in as a buyer to an important extent. British grain traders are doubtful if this will happen, because the Continent was an exceptionally heavy purchaser early in the year and because exportations afloat direct for the Continental countries last week were larger by 2,300,000 quarters, or 18,400,000 bushels, than at the same date last year. It was a matter of comment last week, however, that supply and demand appear to have little influence on the movement of prices. The grain market admits that the proposed United States Government investigation of the grain market undoubtedly frightened outside speculators, and that when they shall have been finally eliminated the position may improve.

A Berlin dispatch states that the effect of the great decline in grain prices at Chicago and Liverpool has been to reduce the German grain market to what the trade newspapers describe as a condition of anarchy. There seems to be complete uncertainty as to the actual reserves of wheat held throughout the world, also great doubt as to the outlook for the new crops. One trade organ, the Handel und Industrie Zeitung, insists that a new advance in grain prices is probable.

A Rome dispatch says: "European prices for agricultural products are necessarily largely influenced by the sweeping reaction in American prices for grain. This decline is now believed to have definitely and permanently overcome the excessively high prices set in the recent speculation at Chicago."

A Paris dispatch says: "The extremely violent fall of wheat and stocks on the American markets has caused much surprise in Paris. Even our Bourse had looked for continuance of the general rise in American prices, in response to the greatly improved American situation, financial and agricultural. In some quarters the opinion was expressed last week that, even if the period of economic prosperity in the United States is assumed not to be ended, nevertheless speculators had discounted the immediate prospects altogether too heavily. If this is assumed to be the case, the inference is that the reaction from such over-confidence might be long continued."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 7: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.45 for the top; bulk of sales $13.10 to $13.40; medium and good beef steers $10 to $11.35; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $12; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.50; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes mostly $7.50 to $8.00 per barrel, top of $8.50 in Pittsburgh. New York yellow onions ranged $3.50 to $4.50 per 100 pound sack in the East. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage $1.10 to $1.35 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. New York Baldwin apples generally ranged $6 to $7 per barrel. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, original pack $5.50 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier, top of $7 in Baltimore. Florida strawberries 30 to 50¢ quart basis in city markets. Louisiana Klondikes $5.50 to $6.00 per 24 pint crate in leading cities; $5.42 1/2 to $5.70 f.o.b. Hammond.

Grain prices quoted April 7: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 1/2 to $1.77 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.68; Kansas City $1.66 to $1.74. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.52 to $1.55; Kansas City $1.48 to $1.53. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City 96¢; No.3 mixed corn Chicago 98 1/2 to $1.00 1/2; Minneapolis 92 1/2 to 94 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.05; Kansas City $1.03. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 99 1/4¢ to $1; Minneapolis 97 1/2 to 99 1/2¢; St. Louis $1.03 to $1.03 1/2. No.2 white corn Kansas City 99¢; No.3 white corn St.Louis $1.04; No.4 white corn Chicago 97¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 43 1/2 to 44¢; Minneapolis 36 1/4 to 38 1/4¢; St. Louis 45 1/2 to 46¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 47 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 9 designated spot markets declined 2 points closing at 24.54¢ per lb. (Holiday at New Orleans.) New York May future contracts declined 4 points, closing at 24.35¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 7	Apr. 6	Apr. 7, 1924
20 Industrials	118.78	119.43	93.03
20 R.R. stocks	95.67	95.81	82.80

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 8.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVII, No. 8 Section 1 April 9, 1925

ARMOUR-MORRIS CASE

Monopolistic control of the packing industry is impossible, A. S. Austrian, chief counsel for Armour & Co., declared April 8 in his closing argument before Secretary Jardine, who is to decide if that company's absorption of the business of Morris & Co. constitutes a violation of the Packers and Stockyards act. On all of the livestock markets in the United States, he said, the smaller packers are able to buy livestock at the same price the larger packers pay, and he argued that unless a concern can control the price of the raw material of the industry it can not create a monopoly. Secretary Jardine announced that he would close the hearing to-day and take the case under advisement. (Press, Apr. 9)

SHIPSTEAD ON GRAIN MARKET

The Associated Press to-day says: "A charge that the recent skyrocketing of wheat prices on the Chicago Board of Trade was due to the activities of price speculators is made by Senator Shipstead, of Minnesota, in a letter to Julius Barnes, former president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The Senator asserts also that the Department of Agriculture, 'whether by good intention or otherwise,' assisted in the 'bull' movement by cooperating with the issue of 'false propaganda' regarding a threatened shortage of world wheat supplies. The communication, made public by the Senator yesterday, was in reply to an article recently published by Mr. Barnes, in which he asserted that Senator Shipstead, in advising the farmers last fall to market their wheat crop then made it impossible for the farmer to take advantage of the higher prices of wheat prevailing this year until the recent break in the market. ..."

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION

The press to-day reports that President Coolidge has asked the heads of the executive departments wherever possible to reorganize the work of their departments in line with the administration's general economy program.

General Lord, Director of the Budget, told members of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce yesterday that no further reduction in income taxes would be possible unless a greater reduction in Government expenditures was effected within the next two years. He declared that if the expenditures continued in the same ratio with the revenue as at present there was no hope for a cut. General Lord estimated that a surplus of $100,000,000 at the end of this year and of $300,000,000 at the end of next year would be necessary to make a tax reduction possible. The General asked for cooperation of business men with President Coolidge in his economy program, and said: "What is being done in the Federal Government in the way of carrying out a budget and practicing economy should be done in all the States, municipalities and townships, and could even well be practiced by private households." The Budget Director pointed out that the national debt of $26,500,000,000 outstanding on Aug. 31, 1919, had been reduced by more than $3,000,000,000 in three budget years. (Press, Apr. 9.)

Section 2

Agricultural Outlook

The Wall Street Journal for April 8 says: "From the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which is a division of the Department of Agriculture, comes a cheerful song entitled 'The Hopeful Season.' That it is dated as of April 1 should detract nothing from its charm, both because of the high standing of its sponsors and also that it is based on actual facts. The song, therefore, is full of hope and cheer for the agricultural outlook of this year. 'A new chapter,' it says, 'has been opened in the general postwar condition.' What better music can business hear than this regarding agricultural conditions which for the past five years has been sung in hardly any key but D Minor? There is now a more joyous strain. There are no big surpluses of agricultural products left save the partly fictitious one of cattle. And this is exactly true. Within the period covered the cotton market was staggered by a surplus of cotton equal to one of our smallest crops. That surplus has been progressively decreasing and now, even though a large crop was raised last year, the world is avid for cotton. Last autumn this newspaper estimated that foreign consumers would take 8,000,000 bales. Exports have already passed the 7,000,000 mark and there are three and one-half months of the season remaining. It is certain that our carryover of cotton will be one of the smallest known in modern times. There may be a large carryover of oats unless the present low price stimulates consumption far beyond what it has been thus far this season. But in the other grain crops and in livestock there will be scarcity. Corn is almost purely a domestic matter with us. All the season the supply has been short and it will be a close matter to tide the season over until the new crop comes. There has been a heavy liquidation in hogs, and this spring there will be 14 per cent less breeding sows. Consequently, there will be no surplus pigs this fall. The same is true in the cattle industry. For some years we have heard nothing but complaints from the producers, but the country must soon wake up to the fact that we are facing a shortage of beef. Looking at the wheat market, now under bearish influences, one might think there was a great surplus, but the reverse is the case. The consuming countries are not building up a reserve, but are carrying on from hand to mouth and at the end of the season will be practically bare of supplies. The great exporting countries taken together, the United States, Canada, Argentina and Australia, as compared with a year ago will be short at least 200,000,000 bushels of wheat by the first of July, and our own carryover will be down to the danger point. It is well said, therefore, that there is no surplus of agricultural products."

Australian Sugar Crop

A Brisbane dispatch to the press of April 8 states that the sugar crop of the coming season is estimated at 500,000 tons, with a surplus of 180,000 tons. This is attributed mainly to the favorable weather, the building of the North Coast Railroad and the large influx of Italian workmen.

Business Conditions

Theo H. Price, writing in Commerce and Finance for April 8, says: "Even in the thrilling days of the war Wall Street was not much more sensational than it was last week. On Monday May wheat sold at $1.40 1/2 and many stocks were below the prices at which they were quoted when the Coolidge boom started. ... But it is to the credit of

American business men that they pursued the even tenor of their way in both cases and there is reason to think that Secretary Hoover may be right in saying that the stock market is no longer barometric. In January it was vigorously asserted that a trade revival was foreshadowed by the advance then in progress on the Stock Exchange, and last week it was just as earnestly affirmed that the decline in securities indicated the approach of an acute business contraction. Thus far neither theory has been vindicated and there is some ground for believing that the merchants and manufacturers of this country have at last learned to buy in moments of speculative depression and to refrain from buying at a time of speculative elation. This seems almost too good to be true, but it is a fact that a seasonal improvement in distributive trade has come along as due despite the decline in stocks and grain and that merchants are operating with more confidence since the speculative bubble has been punctured. It is of course too early to say whether this improvement will be permanent but most commodity markets were steadier as the week ended and there seems good reason to expect a further recovery from the low levels touched on Monday. Wheat, for instance, is again being bought for consumption and export. Cotton is steadier. Sugar has recovered a portion of its slight decline. Wool appears to have been halted in its downward course, silk is looking up a little, rubber has hardly yielded, and coffee is the only agricultural product that can now be described as weak. Cables from Santos report that the stocks there are becoming somewhat burdensome, although it is added that they are firmly held. ..."

Business in Farming

An editorial in Farm & Fireside for April says: "What farmers want, after all the big language of a million resolutions, speeches and letters is cleared away, is more money. Vague demands addressed to thin air won't get it. This method has failed. Even when the demands are voiced by farm organizations with big membership. Business, big and little, wants farmers to prosper. Business thrives on sales. Prosperous farmers buy. Unprosperous farmers can't. But business nor Government nor the public has any way of giving farmers better pay. How can we get better returns? The same way you get $150 from a horse buyer who first offers you $100. By bargaining! You don't get it by saying you are hard up, or that the horse cost you so much, nor from sympathy. You convince him that the horse is worth $150 to him, and that you won't sell it for less. You can't bargain over the sale of a horse if you have no horse. The Farm Bureau, the Grange, the Farmers' Union, etc., can't get us more money because they do not have our horses to sell for us. As individuals we can seldom negotiate with the users of our wheat, our hogs, our fruit. We have to have agents, representing a number of us. In some places we have cooperative sales associations. These associations can get us more money because they have something to sell, and can bargain. We can only get more money by selling for more that which we have. Then let us build ourselves selling organizations. Through them let us offer a specific horse to a specific buyer, and bargain for a specific price. We need general organizations to voice certain of our purposes and to perform certain services. But we must have business organizations to get us more money. Let's do business!"

Cotton Acreage Referring to acreage planted to cotton, an editorial in the Progressive Farmer for April 4 says: "On the whole, we believe there will be more acres planted in 1925 than were planted in 1924. ... The two factors which we believe will increase the acreage are, first, the absence of serious boll weevil damage in nearly all sections in 1924, and, second, the price received makes cotton the best field crop in the world when efficiently produced. No one except the Crop Reporting Board, which has collected sufficient opinions from farmers from all parts of the belt, can make an intelligent forecast as to what the probable acreage will be, but if we had to make a guess we would say that the acreage will be increased from 5 to 8 per cent. This increase, if it occurs, will be the very worst thing possible for southern farmers. We planted acreage enough in 1924, if the spring had been favorable for getting good stands, to have produced 16,000,000 to 18,000,000 bales. It is not more acreage to cotton that we need, but more cotton per acre, and more acres in food and feed crops -- more acres in pasture, soybeans, and other feed and food crops. But a fair crop the previous year, the absence of serious boll weevil damage, and 20 to 25 cents a pound for cotton or similar conditions, have always caused farmers to increase their acreage in any crop, and will probably do so as to cotton in 1925. It may mean disaster, as it always does, to have more cotton than the world needs, which results in a low price, and short feed supplies, but our memories are short and the spirit of the gambler is strong in most of us, so we take one more chance in the hope that luck will be with us this time. But it seldom is, so the chances are that an increased cotton acreage in 1925 will mean loss instead of gain."

Embargoes An editorial in Pacific Rural Press for March 28 says: "Some day this State (California) must decide whether its embargoes against shipments from other States shall be made solely on the basis of pest protection, or whether we shall sometimes wink the other eye and clap on embargoes which will keep out competing products. In other words, will we have embargoes for pest protection or for tariff protection? Just now the matter is up in the case of potato shipments from the alfalfa weevil territories of Idaho and Nevada. The potato bug picked off a pile of alfalfa hay or hauled on a cushion of alfalfa hay is a possible source of infection. California admits potato shipments from these States under restrictions. We must live harmoniously with our neighbors and not invite retaliatory embargoes, it is explained."

Potash Costs A New York press report of April 8 states that E. K. Howe, president of the Potash Importing Corporation of America, asserted April 7 that import cost of potash for American farmers has been lowered, rather than increased, as a result of the combination of German and French potash interests, reported recently in Washington and Berlin dispatches. A ton of muriate of potash which cost the American manufacturer of fertilizer $32.35 in 1913 will cost him $31.10 next year, Mr. Howe said.

Substitutes The press of April 8 says: "Rising prices for rubber are causing consumers to evidence interest in possible substitutes, Secretary Hoover said April 7. He added that public interest in substitutes for essential raw materials rose and fell with the level of prices. The recent fall in the price of sisal, Mr. Hoover said, had resulted in a falling off of interest in the development of substitutes for the commodity."

Taxation and Tariff

The Journal of Commerce for April 8 says: "The reduction of Federal and States taxes is more to be desired than the revision of the tariff, according to some of the members of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers in session at Washington. The opinion was quite generally expressed that there are many things far more important than added protection at the ports of entry, although some few who are engaged in the production of the finer cotton goods declared themselves resigned to the situation. This is looked upon as in part the explanation for the failure of the manufacturers to engage in tariff discussions during the convention. They frankly declared that they had no intention of bringing up the matter at this time, and so laid at rest the many rumors to the effect that they had come to Washington to make a tariff drive. American producers, it was said, must look to other means of reducing prices and increasing quality in order to hold their trade at home and abroad. Reducing the wages of labor will not avail of much, the manufacturer said. Mass production, efficiency, the safeguarding of credits, more equitable distribution of productive efforts so that there may be a lessening of the variation between slack and rush seasons, ease of distribution, equitable freight rates and a lessening of industrial wastes were offered as solutions."

Wheat Condition

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 8 says: "For some time past reports have been coming in from winter wheat districts to the effect that the crop was well below the average. Information furnished this newspaper by its own correspondents throughout the chief producing States of the Union, a digest of which is published along with average condition estimates on another page, shows clearly enough that in the main these accounts that have been reaching the public are correct. Unless the miraculous happens or something closely approaching that we shall have a short crop of winter wheat in this country this year. Just what does this mean to the farmer who earns his livelihood growing winter wheat, and to the country at large? The answer to such questions depends obviously upon a number of factors about which information is not yet at hand in great abundance. For one thing, the status of the winter wheat producer will naturally be substantially affected by the size of the spring wheat crop. The Canadian output is another factor in the situation. The extent of the European yields is, too, to be taken into consideration. The farmer in Kansas who has been deprived of a substantial percentage of his normal yield of wheat will be a heavy loser if the failure of his crop and that of his neighbors does not serve to bring price adjustments of a sort to compensate him in part for the loss in total amount of wheat he has to sell. If the at least partial crop failure which appears more or less unavoidable in large portions of our winter wheat area is accompanied by heavy production in other important districts of the northern hemisphere we may expect some distinctly undesirable conditions to exist in the Middle West. ... The outlook then so far as it may at this early date be foreseen is at the present moment favorable to a rather spotty situation in our wheat growing sections, with the chances favoring rather bad conditions in a good deal of the Central West and good conditions in the Northwest. Of course, geographically and economically winter wheat is much more important in this country than spring wheat. Should events work themselves out in the way they now promise to do we may expect to find a good deal of political and other discontent in such States as Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma,

Indiana and Ohio, whatever may be the state of affairs in the Dakotas. As the farm season generally advances conditions may or may not develop which will offset the tendencies which appear to be gaining headway at the present time. But the situation may well engage the attention both of the business man whose welfare is this year peculiarly dependent upon the agricultural situation and the politician who appears to think he has lulled the farmer to sleep."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 8: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.50 for the top and $13.20 to $13.45 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.35; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.75 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $12; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.50; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes declined in leading markets to $7.50 to $8.00 per barrel; few sales f.o.b. at $6.00. New York Baldwin apples $6 to $7 per barrel in leading markets. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage firm at $1.25 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern cities. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions, commercial pack, weaker at $2.50 to $2.75 per crate, top of $3.50 in Pittsburgh; $1.60 to $1.65 f.o.b. Laredo. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, unsettled ranging $5.50 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier. Virginia spinach stronger at $2 to $2.50 per barrel in a few eastern cities; $2 to $2.25 f.o.b. Norfolk.

Grain prices quoted April 8: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 to $1.77. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.78; Kansas City (nominal) $1.71 to $1.78. No. 1 hard winter Kansas City $1.53 1/2 to $1.60. St. Louis $1.57. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 97¢; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.01; Minneapolis 94 to 96¢; No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.10; Kansas City $1.03 to $1.05. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.03 1/4 to $1.04; Minneapolis 97 to 99¢; St. Louis $1.04 to $1.05. No. 2 white corn Kansas City 99 to $1.02 1/2; No. 3 white corn St. Louis $1.05 to $1.06. No. 3 white oats Chicago 44 to 45¢; Minneapolis 39 to 39 1/2¢; St. Louis 45 1/2 to 46¢; No. 2 white oats Kansas City 47 to 48¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44 1/2¢; Chicago 42 1/2¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 45¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 27 points, closing at 24.27¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 23 points, closing at 24.12¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 8	Apr. 7	Apr. 8, 1924
20 Industrials	118.90	118.78	92.85
20 R.R. stocks	94.88	95.67	82.17

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 9)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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THE PACKERS' CASE

The packers ended their argument in the dispute over the validity of the Armour-Morris merger yesterday, and to-day Government counsel will begin their closing statement. Secretary Jardine, who is hearing both sides of the controversy before ruling whether or not the consolidation of the two packing companies violated the Packers and Stockyards act, extended the time of the hearing yesterday and indicated that he would not shut off discussion before Saturday. (Press, Apr. 10.)

THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTMENTAL SURVEY

The press to-day states that all of the more than forty independent agencies of the Government are to be included in the survey ordered by President Coolidge to determine the extent of their actual usefulness. This is in line with President Coolidge's economy program and he has ordered this inquiry to get the facts as to what agencies should be continued, what ones abolished, and where mergers should be made with the regular departments. The survey has begun with the Employees' Compensation Commission as the first subject. The experts expect to report their findings within three weeks. This report also will contain opinions regarding the legal authority of the President to abolish this commission or assign it to a department. The President has received information and opinions of a varied nature regarding the real usefulness of this commission and many of the other independent agencies. It has frequently been suggested to him that considerable money could be saved annually if some of them were abandoned or reduced. This investigation is being made by Frederick J. Bailey, representative of the Personnel Classification Board; F. W. Whight, representing the Budget Bureau, Z. G. Croisant, representing the Bureau of Efficiency; Guy Moffett, representing the United States Civil Service Commission, and B. G. Caldwell.

SENATOR BUTLER UPHOLDS TARIFF

Senator William Butler, chairman of the Republican National Committee, returned from a vacation in the South April 9 and will confer with President Coolidge to-day upon public matters. Mr. Butler said that he was in entire agreement with the President upon the tariff. He said that it would be unwise to tinker with the Tariff law in the next Congress even though some inequalities might exist in certain schedules and certain American industries are suffering from competition due to the low tariff rates in the Fordney-McCumber Tariff law. As a manufacturer, Senator Butler says he finds his branch of the textile industry greatly handicapped by the low tariff schedules. He is a manufacturer of fine fabrics which, it is asserted, are not sufficiently protected to meet with competition from England. (Press, Apr. 10.)

ICE CREAM MERGER PLANNED

The press to-day states that formation of the largest ice cream concern ever organized is contemplated by the owners of eight companies operating in New York State. If the negotiations are successful, it was learned yesterday, a corporation will be created with assets of $30,000,000.

Section 2

Agricultural Progress

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for April 11 says: "Country life in America is being mechanized at an amazingly rapid rate. It is being subjected to the same forces that transformed city life -- and the results seem likely to prove equally revolutionary. Less than twenty years ago people spoke disparagingly of rural isolation. It was one of the things President Roosevelt's Rural Life Conference spent much time discussing. To-day that isolation has been all but eliminated -- by good roads, rural free delivery, automobiles, trucks, telephones, phonographs, motion pictures and radio. One need not be much beyond youth to have witnessed the development of the tractor and other power machinery for farm use, as well as a host of bigger and better farm implements of all sorts. ... And the process has only just begun. The next step -- and it will be here before we realize -- is electrification of the farms. What will be the effects of such complete mechanization? Already the results are so startling that it seems safe to predict a complete new agriculture. The first notable effect is in the changed habits of thought of the rural population and in their higher standards of living. Country people to-day look no different, dress no differently and think no differently from city people. They are organizing themselves into trade associations for better production, better financing and better marketing -- just like manufacturers and merchants in the cities. They are discussing business methods and business efficiency in farming in exactly the same language that city men use in their businesses. Farmers are feeling the urge to get together, to cooperate, to merge their interests in big organizations -- just as other industrialists have been doing. All this grows out of the new mechanical order. The pressure of modern life, manifested in high taxes for public improvements and public welfare, is driving the incompetent off the farm. It is a repetition of city experience in mechanization. Small craftsmen in the cities have been driven out of business by factories; small tradesmen to-day are being forced to the wall by chain stores and department stores. Thousands of farmers whose soil is too poor or too rocky, or whose farms are too small or whose managerial ability is insufficient, are being driven out by the competition of those better situated, and are migrating to the cities. ... Carried to its logical conclusion, commercialization of agriculture means larger and better equipped farms. Here, however, we run into a widespread belief that big farming is a bad thing for the country. Some say that everyone should have a farm if he expresses a desire for one. Why farms instead of banks or grocery stores is not quite clear. ... So, regardless of the views of the theorists who would divide and subdivide the lands in this country, we may look upon the mechanization of agriculture with equanimity, for if we interpret it correctly it means: Larger and more efficient farm units; greater specialization with carefully worked out selective diversification; further development of machine methods of production; better farm management; and a reduction of the costs of production below anything yet known. In short, the tendency of rural mechanization is toward business farming. Along with this must come a better and more closely knit organization of the entire agricultural industry -- with a possible drift in some quarters toward that hobgoblin of the serious thinkers, corporation farming. ..."

Armour-Morris Case

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 9 says: "Discussion which is now in progress before Secretary Jardine to determine whether the purchase of Morris & Company by Armour & Company constitutes a violation of the Packers and Stockyards act should receive much more attention from those who are charged with the investigation of the matter than can be called forth by any immediate question of conformity to the act itself. We may well doubt whether the Packers and Stockyards act, hastily passed and receiving but little careful thought from the public at large, is a wise measure. Its usefulness was seriously questioned at the time, and it has still to demonstrate its benefits. Like the legislation of the past few years, directed against various types of business, the Packers and Stockyards act represents a rather amateurish conception of the whole situation to which it relates. It is a statute of the United States, however, and as such should, and doubtless will, be conscientiously applied and observed within the plain meaning of the law itself. But the trouble with this statute as with so many other efforts of the same kind is not found in connection with its plain meaning, or perhaps even with its intent. It lies in the fact that the general problems of business are not well comprehended by most of our legislators and are usually still less understood or observed by many of those who seek for enactments from Congress. In the present controversy the argument is concentrated around the question whether a given extension of business on the part of one of the packers is likely to result in monopoly or price control. As to this the packing interests affected naturally take a strong position of rebuttal, while the Government as usual is inclined to think that every such increase of size necessarily means some development that is hostile to the public welfare and will probably be used for the purpose of giving to the farmer less for his raw material than he should have, while extracting from the consumer more for the finished product than the latter should pay. The argument, in fact, is evidently centering around the question whether what is called 'competition' will be seriously interfered with through the proposed purchase, and the point is made by the industry affected that the Chicago packers must meet the competition of about 1,379 slaughtering and meat packing establishments in various parts of the country, while local slaughtering by farms affords still further competition, and behind this is the fact that 'no packer can control the actions of six million farmers scattered throughout the United States.' As for relations with the consumer, it is pointed out that the principal effect of the merger is to enable the introduction of large savings into the industry and in no way to affect the control of establishment of prices for finished products one way or the other. ... What is of great interest to the public is to find out exactly what is meant by 'competition' when the work is used by the Government and to know what, if any, are the restrictions which are properly to be placed upon the scope and ramifications of any given business. ... In the present proceeding the Government is apparently disposed to contend that the abstract 'power to control' is a reason for prohibiting the growth of the business. ... It is not desirable that any hasty and arbitrary action should be taken by our agricultural authorities merely upon the abstract belief that a given business enterprise can nor may do something that is violative of the public welfare. Almost any individual or business may commit such acts, regardless of its size, but neither the corporation nor the individual should be condemned upon

conjectural grounds. A very proper field of investigation is, however, suggested by the general question how far the packers or any other of the food trades should be allowed to go in the control or development of their own or allied branches of business, and what are the marks of a business policy that is inconsistent with the public welfare. The Government has complained within recent years of stability in prices, of irregularity in prices, of rising and falling prices and has taken or threatened proceedings against various enterprises for each of these 'policies.' Its standards of regulation; its methods of passing judgment; its canons and types of procedure are too vague to afford a guide to business men, even though they have the best will in the world to observe the interests of the rank and file of consumers. This is a real world and business is conducted under conditions as they exist and subject to necessities of far more than temporary or passing character. There is need of a very different kind of oversight and a more understanding relationship to business than the Government has yet been able to show."

Cotton

The Wall Street Journal for April 9 says: "'From 11,500,000 to 12,000,000 bales of cotton will be produced this year,' says L. K. Salsbury, president of the Delta and Pine Land Company, which, at Scott, Mississippi, cultivates about 15,000 acres of cotton. The possibility contained in this statement is something to give anxiety to every one connected with the cotton business. It must be recognized that any estimate of the cotton crop at this time of the year is like counting chickens before the eggs are even in the incubator. The man who sets the eggs can, on the average, tell pretty nearly what the hatch will be. Assuming normal conditions, it may be possible to make an approximation of the cotton crop. The estimate of Mr. Salsbury corresponds fairly well with what the crop was last year before the September rains broke the drought in the Southwest and the Indian summer brought on a new crop. There will undoubtedly be an increase in acreage this year compared with last; sales of fertilizer in the eastern belt appear to be larger than a year ago and, under ordinary conditions, a crop slightly larger than that in sight last September might be assumed. Reports of the United States entomologists indicate at least the usual infestation of weevils in southeastern Alabama, in Georgia, Florida and in North and South Carolina up to the Piedmont regions. From Alabama westward the reports do not thus far indicate anything serious from the insect. But last year over half of the crop was produced in three States of the Southwest. Those States now, particularly Oklahoma and Texas, are in a critical condition. ... Texas depends upon the rainfall from October to March for a supply of subsoil moisture to carry the crops through the drought period. The average rainfall in those months for the past five years has been 14.54 inches, The crop last year had 19.74 inches. This year it has 5.07 inches. The prediction of Mr. Salsbury stands a serious chance of coming true. What will happen if it does? Look at the rapidity with which the big crop of last year is going into consumption and the question is answered. At the end of February, according to the official report, 3,489,000 bales had been consumed in the mills of the United States. By the end of this week at least 7,250,000 bales will have gone into export since the first of August. There is no need to predict how large will be consumption or how much more will be exported before the first of next August. The figures show that the big crop will be gone and the cotton industry will begin a new year with a carryover no larger than that of a year ago."

Cotton Goods Men and Tariff — The Journal of Commerce for April 9 says: "While sedulously evading the tariff as a political issue, individual members of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers have utilized their opportunities while in Washington of letting it be known that action by the United States Tariff Commission under the flexible provisions of the tariff law is ardently desired. ..."

Farmer Taxes — An editorial in The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman for April 1 says: "Whenever bond issues arise for public improvement purposes, the town people generally vote for them and the farmers swat them. What is the reason for this? Are farmers opposed to public improvements? Do they dislike hard-surfaced roads? Are they opposed to good court houses, modern school buildings and other evidences of progress? The answer is no. Farmers like to ride on good roads and send their children to good schools. The plain fact is that the farm folks do not feel that they can afford to pay their share of these added improvements, because each one of them means increased taxes. ... Land values in the country have nothing whatever to do with the income out of which taxes are paid. Farm income depends not at all on land values, nor on assessed valuations, but on the yield per acre and the price which the farmer can get for the crops which he grows. A piece of land may produce twice the amount of crops in one year that it does in another, with little or no change in its sale value and no change whatever in the amount of tax which must be paid out of the income from the crops. The result is that farmers have an infinitely harder time than city men to pay these fixed charges. The situation is made worse by the fact that on the average the income of farmers is less than that if city men and their tax burden is relatively larger. Farmers pay between 16 and 20 per cent of their total income for taxes, whereas city men pay only about 12 per cent for theirs. Under such circumstances it is no wonder that farmers object to increased taxation even for purposes which they acknowledge to be good."

Farm Mortgages in Oklahoma — An editorial in The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman for April 1 says: "Farm folks who remember troubles either they or their neighbors have had in paying off mortgages the last few years can hardly believe that any one farm loan company could make 30,000 loans in seven years and have only 44 foreclosures. No such record ever has been achieved by any private loan company. We are talking about the Federal Farm Land Bank at Wichita, which makes loans in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico, and which had on December 31, 1924, a total of $85,000,000 tied up in outstanding farm loans. The reason there are few foreclosures in the Federal land banks is because the farmers are able to pay the mortgage as due. ... More than 6,000 farms in Oklahoma are under mortgage to the Federal Land Bank. Practically all of these mortgages will be repaid by the men who make them. It is one of the ways whereby earning a farm in Oklahoma is made easier."

Flexible Tariff — The press of April 9 says: "The Tariff Commission is fearful of the effect upon the flexible tariff of the decision handed down Tuesday by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in the Norwegian Nitrogen Products Company case. In a statement issued April 8, the commission declared that if the court's interpretation of trade secrets as not including individual costs of production is to be carried out it will make the administration of the flexible provisions of the law exceedingly difficult."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 9: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes ranged generally lower in city markets at $7.50 to $8.50 per barrel; steady at $6 f.o.b. Hastings. New York yellow onions slightly stronger at $3.50 to $4.00 per 100 pound sack. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage sold higher at $1.25 to $1.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Alabama flat and round types $3 to $3.25 per barrel crate in Chicago; $1.50 to $1.75 f.o.b. Mobile. New York Baldwin apples slightly stronger at $6 to $7 per barrel, top of $7.50 in Philadelphia. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, slightly stronger at $6 to $7 per six basket carrier, top of $7.50 in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.50 for the top and $13.15 to $13.35 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.35; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.35 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $12; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.50; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.75 to $13.50; fat ewes $7.50 to $12.

Grain prices quoted April 9: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 1/2 to $1.77 1/2. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.75; Kansas City $1.71 to $1.78; No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.57 (nominal); Kansas City $1.59. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 97 1/2¢; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago 98 1/2 to $1.01; Minneapolis 96 to 98¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.08 to $1.10; Minneapolis $1 to $1.02; Kansas City $1.08; No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.02 1/4 to $1.07; Kansas City $1.05 to $1.06. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.00 1/2; No. 3 white corn St. Louis $1.05. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 to 44¢; Minneapolis 38 1/4 to 39¢; St. Louis 46¢; Kansas City 46 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43¢; Chicago 41¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 4 points, closing at 24.31¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 4 points, closing at 24.16¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 9	Apr. 8	Apr. 9, 1924
20 Industrials	119.06	118.90	92.85
20 R.R. stocks	94.79	94.88	82.17

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 10)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 10 Section 1 April 11, 1928

THE PACKERS' CASE

The press to-day says: "Answering the contention of the packers in the Armour-Morris merger controversy that a monopoly was impossible in the packing industry, Walter L. Fisher, Chief Counsel for the Government, argued yesterday that the 'vital thing is the preservation of competition in reality.' The packers' attorneys, he told Secretary Jardine, who is conducting the hearing preparatory to ruling on the question of whether the merger violates the Packers and Stockyards act, have admitted that they meant a 100 per cent monopoly, which they described as the only kind that could be made effective. On the other hand, he said, the courts have held time and again that monopoly does not necessarily involve 100 per cent control of an industry. The tendency of modern industrialism, he declared, is toward centralized control, and he predicted that unless this is curbed the Government will have to step in and fix prices. Secretary Jardine allotted the entire time of yesterday's hearing to the Government. He plans to close the hearing to-day and take the case under advisement. He can exonerate the packers or issue a rule against the merger which would send the question to the Supreme Court for final settlement."

FARMER TAXATION

An editorial in The Washington Post to-day says: "The Department of Agriculture finally has made up its mind that farmers pay more taxes than city dwellers. After a study of 100 average farms in that most average of States, Indiana, its figures reveal that prior to the subtraction of all taxes, rented farms yield 3.8 per cent annually on their capital value, while rented municipal real estate yields 4.8 per cent and bank property 8 per cent. 'Actual returns,' says the report, 'show that farm land does pay more taxes in proportion to its annual earnings than other real property.' There is no doubt that this survey accurately reflects the farmer's situation. Nor can it be disputed that, if taxation were computed solely on the basis of income, the farmer would have escaped the burden of the postwar period of agricultural depression. The department points out that, since the farmer does not receive the community benefits which municipal inhabitants enjoy, the cost of city government might well -- indeed, ought to be -- deducted in calculating his taxes. 'If that were done,' remarks the St.Paul Pioneer Press, 'the city man's taxes would be but 18 per cent of the rentals received. While this is likewise true, it must be recalled that the farmer himself imposes his local taxes, in township, school and county imposts, without outside interference. These are the taxes which weigh most heavily upon him, and, as has been pointed out repeatedly, the economy program in taxation, like charity, must begin at home.' Thus it appears that the farmer has in his own hands a powerful weapon with which to obtain relief. Let him cut down his local taxes."

RUMANIA BUYS WHEAT

A Bucharest dispatch to the press of April 11 states that the Rumanian Government has agreed to permit the importation of wheat, and 15,000 tons are being ordered immediately. Only once before, for a period in 1919, has wheat been imported into the country.

Section 2

Cotton Exchange President to Quit — Edward R. Bartlett, jr., president of the New York Cotton Exchange, has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election. The annual election is to be held soon. Mr. Bartlett is serving his second term as president. It is understood that Richard T. Harriss probably will succeed him. (Press, Apr. 10)

Cotton Meeting — A New Orleans dispatch to the press to-day states that C.O. Moser, secretary of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange, is heading a party of twenty-five men who are going from Memphis to attend the 29th annual convention of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association, which convened at New Orleans April 10.

Cotton Tariff — An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 9 says: "According to reports from Washington, where the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers is in session, the opinion is quite widespread in the cotton textile trade that a good many things are of more importance to the industry at the present time than an increase in rates of duty. Tax reform is rightly held to be one of the more pressing and vital needs. Others are steps which the industry itself might find possible to take to reduce costs, such as greater efficiency in operation, the establishment of a greater degree of stabilization of operations throughout the year, proper safe-guarding of credits and the like. In these circumstances the textile executives gathered at the Capital City are giving the most of their attention to these latter matters and are having little or nothing to say about raising the tariff. There can not be the slightest question that such an attitude is based upon sound sense. What the mills in this country need to do above all else is to encourage consumption both at home and abroad. That can be best done, of course, by pricing goods in a way to make it possible for the rank and file of the people to buy and pay for more of them. Needless to say, higher rates of duty than those now in effect would tend to push prices up still further and consequently to curtail rather than stimulate the rate of consumption. In order to cut prices the mills in this country are faced with the necessity of reducing their cost to the utmost limit of their ability to do so. They would have been unwise therefore to urge conditions which would, without question, have made it more difficult to cut costs. In declining to press for higher tariff rates they have acted wisely and are due full credit, the more so in view of the long tradition of protection existing in the industry."

Distribution and Marketing — The American Bankers Association to-day issues a statement entitled "New Era For Agriculture." This says: "A new era lies ahead for agriculture because it now commands the best economic thought of the business world directed on its prime requirements of better distribution and marketing, President W. C. Gordon of the State Bank Division, American Bankers Association, declares in a communication to the thirteen thousand members of the division. He seeks to enlist their interest in the work of improving the marketing of farm products. 'The farmer to-day finds himself far removed from his consumer-customer by a long line of intermediate agencies, which often leave him in a position of disadvantage as an individual producer,' Mr. Gordon says. 'It is, therefore, not strange that he should seek to apply to agriculture those principles of

production and distribution found successful in industry. His rightful ambition is to make, where feasible, a general application of successful business experience to the marketing of agricultural products. Commanding the best economic thought of the business world, agriculture undoubtedly stands on the threshold of a new era. In lieu of fantastic panaceas, agricultural welfare -- which after all is the Nation's welfare -- has need of a sane, long range program that is at once practical, constructive, and economically sound.'"

Taxation

The blighting effects of excessive taxation, leading to a Nation's economic destruction, are described in the current issue of the American Bankers Association Journal by Garrard B. Winston, Undersecretary of the Treasury. Citing possible effects on the Ford Motor Car Company, he declares that "the value is so large and its ownership so centered, it is conceivable that collection of inheritance taxes may check, if not destroy, that unit of policy which has created and expanded that industry and thus prevent its future prosperity. Of what avail, then, is it to any Government if it collects one hundred million dollars once in estate taxes and destroys a source of income upon which it can rely for revenue year after year? Success of the Ford Company does not mean simply that Mr. Ford and his son have grown wealthy. It means employment of tens of thousands of men and women; that mines, forests, railroads and vessels are brought into use; that the public has received an efficient and inexpensive means of transportation; that the farm is in touch with the city, and the worker with his office." Mr. Winston says further: "Upon first impression it might appear that a nation could take all of the earnings of its citizens or all of their property. The Soviet Government proposed to appropriate all instrumentalities of trade and commerce. Yet, when the State reached out to grasp this wealth, it disappeared and left nothing but a few tangible objects, such as gold and jewels, which were easily transported to other countries. Wealth in Russia ceased to exist. If income tax rates are placed so high that capital in productive business no longer gives a net return commensurate with the risk, capital will go out of productive business, lie idle, go abroad, go into tax-exempt securities, or find other ways of avoiding the tax. If income tax rates are so excessive that a man of ability finds he must work more than three days a week for the Government, he will become discouraged and decide that the result is not worth the effort. Less income will be produced and less will be realized from the tax.

"Recently a letter came to the Treasury from a small farmer. He owned a few acres which in 1913 were assessed at $900 and on which a tax of $13 was levied. In 1924 the assessed value increased to $3,800 and the tax to $123 but the farm failed to produce any more. Taxes exceeded the rental value of the land and more than the net earnings of the property were taken by the State. The farm was abandoned and now produces no tax. ... Unscientific methods of taxation may actually destroy the very earnings or property which it should be the principal interest of a Government to foster. When it reaches the limits of what is known as its taxable capacity, a nation has begun to die. If taxes are raised too high, a country will slowly but surely destroy itself. It will use for daily consumption the seed corn on which its future life depends, and the spirit of initiative and adventure in its people will finally disappear. ... The effort in taxation should be to find the tax which will continue

to raise money over a period of years. Invariably, with an excessive tax, its yield has fallen off year by year, while each rate reduction is reflected in an increase of taxable income. If the Treasury is to be assured a continuance of revenue, our citizens must prosper. If they are to prosper, the appropriation by the State of their earnings and property must be based upon economically sound principles."

Warehouse Receipts

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 10 says: "An expert of the Department of Agriculture writing in the last issue of the 'Acceptance Bulletin' calls attention to some of the large gains that have been achieved in a short space of time in raising the standard of warehouse paper under the United States Warehouse act. The losses suffered by many banks because of the inadequate security afforded by warehouse receipts as collateral for commodity loans was responsible for the agitation that led to the passage of legislation providing for the voluntary submission to Federal supervision of licensed warehouses. The rapid increase in the number of warehouses since licensed under the act and the extension of its provisions to a considerable number of articles in addition to the original list comprising cotton, grain, wool and tobacco, show very clearly the need for such protective legislation. The practice of shipping out warehoused commodities before loans are paid and the receipts surrendered by lending banks; the issuance of receipts against stored cotton, for example, without regard to weight, condition or grade; and storage in places inadequately protected against fire, theft, etc., are among the prevalent evils that Federal uniform licensing and supervision are intended to correct. Such protective measures are of inestimable advantage to the banker, who is given reasonable assurance that he is not lending against lost, stolen, damaged or inferior goods. The system is equally beneficial to the producer or owner of warehoused goods, who is provided with a standard, certified warehouse receipt against which loans can be obtained more easily and on better terms."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture 1

Secretary Jardine's recent talk to the press correspondents at Washington is the subject of a review by Dixon Merritt, Washington correspondent of The Outlook. In the April 8 issue, after quoting the Secretary's words, Mr. Merritt says; "The Secretary's words are good words. Can he translate them into actions? Before that question can be answered we shall have to look at the background of our picture. There are many figures in it. They represent the heredity of Mr. Jardine as Secretary of Agriculture. He can do certain things out of his own individuality. Certain other things he can do because of what certain other men have done, and still other things he can not do because of the things that still other men have not done or have done wrongly. We shall have to look at certain other Secretaries as they sat on the throne, and at certain Wolseys as they stood behind the throne."

Following an extensive review of the administration of the department since the incumbency of Secretary Houston, Mr. Merritt concludes: "Now, after a few months, during which Howard M. Gore served as Secretary, William M. Jardine has come into the office. It is his task to carry on the work of Houston and Meredith and Wallace, but it is equally his task to undo some of the things that those three did. His program seems to me sound and sane. It is not a program that can be

instantly executed. It is a difficult program, requiring patience and diligence. It can not become fully effective in this administration -- or, for that matter, in this generation. But it is a start on the right road to co-ordination of agriculture with other industries, and a great deal of progress can be made in four years. Whether Mr. Jardine will accomplish what he has planned can be known only after he has worked at it some time. He exhibits a directness of purpose and a certitude of conviction that augur well for his career as Secretary of Agriculture. There can be no doubt of the fact that his mind is made up to make the department bear fruit and to use the pruning-hook just as vigorously as is necessary to that end. ... Perhaps the most significant thing he said came after he had outlined what he expects to do. 'This,' he said, 'will call for close and effective cooperation of this department with other Federal departments. I shall promote this cooperation.'"

Department of Agriculture 2

An editorial in The Outlook for April 8 says: "If we were to believe most of the forestry experts who have written us since the publication of Mr. Gregg's article 'Has Our Forest Service "Gone Daffy"?' we should have to conclude that the Forest Service was not only powerful but well-nigh perfect. If it is perfect, it is the only perfect thing that Congress ever created. It seems to be assumed by those of the Forest Service that public criticism of this important bureau is necessarily in the nature of personal reflection upon the men engaged in its work. As long as this is assumed by those who are in authority, whatever improvement is made in the service will have to be made in spite of their resistance rather than with their aid. And it is not likely that the most important improvements can be made in the service without the aid of those who know most about it. The reason for this is evident to one who attempts any study of the laws under which the Forest Service operates. Like every other administrative body, whether civil or military, in our Government, the Forest Service suffers from the effort of Congress to regulate by law matters that ought to be left to the discretion of administrators. Like every other branch of the Government, the Forest Service suffers from the over-minute restrictions put upon the expenditures of money. And, like every other branch of the Government, the Forest Service suffers from the necessity of operating under conflicting, ambiguous, and unbusinesslike laws. Questions have been raised, for example, concerning the thoroughness with which timber sales are supervised. The Chief Forester has replied, pointing to the exact requirements made by regulations concerning such transactions. No regulations, however, can take the place of competent men to make appraisals and sales. And yet the chief, who is responsible ultimately for these transactions, can not exercise the discretion in choosing his subordinates that any corporation would expect and require of those in authority. The reason is that Congress by law determines much of what in business an executive would decide. Questions have been raised concerning the amount of money spent for reforestation as compared with the money spent for roads. Undoubtedly some such supervision over the expenditure of money by the Forest Service should be exercised by Congress as is exercised by a board of directors; but Congress goes much further than any board of directors would think of going in designating the purposes for which money should be spent. Questions have been raised concerning accounting for money spent by the

Forest Service. But the laws under which the moneys are spent are so drafted that it is difficult and in some respects impossible for the service to make a cost accounting as it would if it were conducting the business of a corporation; for the laws themselves are unbusinesslike and ambiguous. Those who are engaged in forestry have no greater concern than to see that the laws under which forest operations are carried on are changed for the better; but if they are going to see an improvement in the law they must be readier than most of them seem to be now to acknowledge the need of improvement in the administration of it."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Apr. 10: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.45 for the top and $13.10 to $13.30 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.35; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.25 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $12; fat lambs $14 to $16.25; fedding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.50 to $13.25 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose $7.50 to $8.50 per barrel in leading markets, $6 f.o.b. Hastings. New York Baldwin apples $6 to $7 per barrel. New York yellow onions $3.40 to $3.75 per sack, top of $4 in Baltimore. Texas Yellow Bermudas, commercial pack, mostly $2.25 to $2.75 per crate in consuming centers; $1.35 to $1.50 f.o.b. Texas points. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage stronger at $1.25 to $1.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper, top of $2 in New York. Louisiana Klondike strawberries fairly steady at $5.50 to $6.50 per 24 pint crate in leading markets; $4.75 to $5.27 1/2 f.o.b. Hammond. Florida celery steady at $2.50 to $3.25 per 10-inch crate in consuming markets; $1.75 to $2.00 f.o.b.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43¢; Chicago 43¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

No grain or cotton reports account of yesterday's observance of Good Friday. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVII, No. 11 Section 1 April 13, 1925

THE PACKERS' CASE

The press of April 12 states that after hearing arguments of both the packers' and Government counsel over the validity of the Armour-Morris merger, Secretary Jardine April 11 took the case under advisement with the promise that he would make a "rather early decision." Two courses are open to the Secretary of Agriculture. He can decide that the consolidation of the two packing houses does not violate the Packers and Stockyards act and drop the case or he can issue a rule against the merger, which would send the case to the Supreme Court for settlement.

The press to-day states that the Farmers National Council announced yesterday it "probably will seek an injunction," to obtain court action on the Armour-Morris packing merger unless Secretary Jardine finds the transaction to be in violation of the Packers and Stockyards act. "Without impunging or even criticizing" the Secretary, the council set forth as a reason for its desire to have the courts decide the question, its opinion that the "principle of the Armour-Morris merger would justify a merger of all four big meat packers into a complete food trust."

COTTON REPORT OMISSION ASKED

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of April 12 states that the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association April 11 adopted resolutions asking that the Federal Crop Reporting Board discontinue during June, July and August the semi-monthly cotton crop forecasts, on the ground that such reports disorganize the stability of values and react unfavorably on the textile industry. The resolution said the summer semi-monthly reports, which were inaugurated last year in compliance with an act of Congress, furnish forecasts of production that are not reliable enough for legitimate trade, and are used largely for speculative purposes. The resolution added that if the reports are t to be continued they should be confined to condition figures for June, July and August, and no production forecasts should be made before the September reports are compiled.

Other resolutions adopted protested that while Federal taxes have been lowered $2,000,000,000 in the last four years, State and local taxation has been steadily increased until it amounts to $6,662,000,000 for the country; urged southern cotton spinners to patronize finishing plants in the South; pledged members of the association to cooperation in enforcing local laws governing child labor, and indorsed the southern cotton mills' new rules relative to purchase and sale of cotton, and urged members to follow those rules. William J. Vereen of Moultrie, Ga., was elected president.

GERMAN FARMER PARTY ARRIVES

The New York Times of April 12 states that the farmers of the world are facing a crisis, and that is particularly true of the farmers of Germany, who are heavily handicapped by taxes and debts, according to Frederick Hagedorn, German Secretary of State for Agriculture, who heads a German delegation to study American methods, which arrived April 11 at New York. The German Joint Commission of Government and Agricultural Societies will spend several months in the United States studying agricultural economics, farm management, stock raising, dairying, agricultural machinery, soil improvement, seed propagation and related subjects.

Section 2

Allied War Debts to Britain

The indebtedness of the allied governments to the United Kingdom for war loans on January 1 amounted to 2,062,000,000 pounds, according to an official statement just received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its British information service. Of this amount 1,396,000,000 pounds represented principal and 666,000,000 pounds represented accrued interest. There was also due to the British Government reconstruction loans on which interest is being paid in cash, amounting to 12,550,000 pounds, and relief loans on which interest is being paid in cash, amounting to 9,830,000 pounds. There was due to the British Government for other services 7,440,000 pounds. Summed up, the total indebtedness of the governments allied in the recent war, due to Great Britain on account of the war and postwar situation on January 1, 1925, was 2,091,820,000 pounds of which 666,000,000 pounds represents unpaid accrued interest. The statement presents a table showing the amounts due from each of the allied governments.

Business Situation

The National City Bank of New York, in its April review of economic conditions, says: "The most notable feature of the business situation in the past month was the setback of bull speculation in grain and stocks. Outside of the parties immediately concerned, interest centers in whether or not the break in prices is significant of conditions unfavorable to general business. Does the decline in grain prices mean that the outlook for farm products in the coming year is less promising than it had appeared, or the decline in stocks mean that a change is impending which will affect the earnings of the corporations? We do not believe that either of these inferences is correct. In our opinion the explanation of the break in each case is to be found in the weakness which inevitably develops in a market situation as the result of a prolonged period of rising prices. A rising market creates constantly widening interest and attracts an increasing number of speculators, whose purchases tend to carry it higher. Most of this buying is done on margins, and it is usually the case that the longer the rise continues the narrower the margins become. Profits are made the basis of further purchases, until a pyramid of holdings is built up on a small original investment. ... The immediate cause of rising prices is a preponderance of buying sentiment, and whenever that sentiment wanes, or a preponderance of selling orders appears, prices go the other way. If the market is a pyramid affair, and anything starts prices downward, it is inevitable that the weakly-margined holdings will be sold, and the weight of such offerings increases as prices fall. ..."

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Many current economic problems which at present are being given attention by both Government and business will come before the thirteenth annual meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce to be held in Washington May 20 to 22. The program for the meeting, made known to-day, shows that the questions for discussion are international as well as domestic in scope. One subject whihh the chamber holds as of more than usual importance is that of commercial treaties. The Turkish treaty is still unratified by the Senate and the country is on the eve of a complete revision of its commercial treaties with other nations. The chamber feels that a national policy should be adopted looking toward a proper development of exports and that business interests affected by new treaties should be consulted in their framing. The subject

of treaties will be discussed by John H. Fahey, of Boston, chairman of the Chamber's Foreign Affairs Committee, who will bring in a report from his committee, and by John N. Willys, president of the Willys-Overland Company. The European situation and the future of the Dawes plan will be presented by a leading figure from Europe, as yet unnamed. Competition in foreign trade is another international subject on the program. One of the domestic subjects of considerable interest at this time is the agricultural situation, to be presented by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, and to be taken up also in a group session. Another is the American Merchant Marine and a third "Congress and the American Business." This subject will be presented by Samuel E. Winslow, who has just retired as a member of Congress from Massachusetts. Much of the discussion at the annual meeting of the chamber will take place in group sessions. These groups, eight in number, are organized to represent the main divisions of American business enterprise. They are: natural resources production, transportation and communication, finance, insurance, manufacture, distribution, foreign trade and civic development. The natural resources group, which deals with primary production, will give attention to agriculture, forestry and the coal situation. Under agriculture the discussion will center around cooperative organizations. Wage agreements will be taken up under coal, and the cut-over land problem will form the subject of discussion under forestry. (Press statement, Ch. of Com. of U.S., Apr. 13)

Farm Buying

The Antigo (Wis.) Journal for April 6 says: "The Journal has maintained for some time that the farm would again come into its own in spite of the fact that conditions for several years haven't appeared very bright upon the horizon. Many farmers have become discouraged, especially in the States where the 'one-crop' farm predominates. Because of its diversified agriculture, Wisconsin has always been more stable in farming than other States, but even here there existed a feeling of pessimism. But, as The Journal has repeatedly stated, and the statements were in accord with the best authorities on the subject, the farm is 'coming back.' According to Dr. Herman Janss, director of the farm lands division of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, with headquarters in Chicago, there has been an increase of 42 per cent in farm buying in 1924, and indications of a 40 to 50 per cent increase in such transactions this year throughout the United States. Dr. Janss said this steadily increasing movement to agricultural districts is due to a stabilization of higher prices for farm products, laws passed by nearly half the States inspiring confidence in farm buying, by protecting the purchasers from irresponsible real estate dealers and a general realization of advantages by farm life. 'Reports from reputable land dealers in various parts of the country show a marked increase in land sales the first few months of this year over last year,' said Dr. Janss. 'This condition indicates strongly that the last of 1925 will see almost a complete end to effects of postwar "farm depression."' Dr. Janss cited a survey of farm real estate trading just completed by E.M.Fisher, director of education and research of the farm land division of the National Real Estate Board, which, on the basis of reports from 31 States and two Canadian provinces, shows the 42 per cent increase in farm sales in 1924 over 1923. ..."

Farmer Optimism An editorial in the Louisville Courier-Journal for April 10 says: "Secretary of Agriculture Jardine is striving for an anomaly. He wants an optimistic farmer. He would turn the customary tune of 'Oh, Those Agriculture Blues' to 'I Love the Cows and Chickens.' He would up-root an age-old pessimism and plant in its stead a garden of optimism. Literally, he advocates the planting of a few flowers and the beautification of the home. 'The joys and comforts of the city always are held up to the farmer, while his hardships and long hours are overemphasized,' declares the Secretary. 'I tell the farmer that he has things which the farmers of upper Broadway are spending millions to get -- a home in the out-of-doors, a chance to create and live.' But no one comes by his pessimism more naturally than the farmer, in spite of all the beautiful things that have been written and said about bucolic life. His long hours are the least of his troubles. Every working day he must count on the cooperation of the elements. Wind and rain, hail and frost can undo in a few minutes the work of months. Drought or deluge can turn a year's investment into a liability. If the skies are propitious, there are the insects to consider. 'Bugs' and worms of various kinds and descriptions take an annual toll in the United States of more than a billion dollars and it is the farmer who is the loser. The tobacco-worm devastates his promising beds and fields; the corn borer plays havoc with his corn; rust attacks his wheat; the Colorado beetle invades his potatoes and scale and moths are destruction to his orchards. It is small wonder that he is not caroling a Pollyanna air from morning until night, however. much such singing might improve his outlook on life. The fact is, he takes life seriously, even if at times he gets into a rut from following year in and year out the same furrow. At any rate, this appeal to him to be happy and chortle some lilting tune is an invasion of an inalienable right he has come by from generation to generation. Grouching with him is natural. Pessimism has almost become a pleasure."

Fertilizer Study Never before in the history of the fertilizer industry have such high-grade commercial fertilizers been so generally available to the consumer as are now to be found on the market, says L. D. Van Slyke, chemist at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, who has just completed a comprehensive study of the composition and prices of commercial fertilizers offered for sale in New York in 1924. With respect to the kinds of fertilizer mixtures on the market, their composition and the cost of plant food contained in them, the situation has more nearly approached pre-war conditions than at any time since 1914, declares Dr. Van Slyke. An important feature brought out by the studies made at the experiment station is the wide range in retail price of commercial fertilizers of approximately the same composition, as well as the wide variation in cost per pound of plant food. It appears, says Dr. Van Slyke, that even when every possible explanation is taken into account consumers are sometimes overcharged for fertilizers. "In buying commercial fertilizers the cost per pound of the actual plant food in the mixture should be the deciding element rather than the price per ton," says Dr. Van Slyke. "This was clearly demonstrated in comparative figures obtained in the course of our studies for both high and low grade preparations. For example, high-class goods selling for an average of $38.47 per ton contained plant food which cost 10.5 cents per pound, whereas in low-grade fertilizers which sold on the average

for $25.13 per ton the actual plant food cost the consumer 13 cents per pound, due to the fact that there was so little of it, relatively, in the low-grade product. Apparently, however, it is poor economy to buy the cheapest fertilizer. Another thing of interest to the purchaser of fertilizers brought out by these studies was the wide variation in retail price between commercial preparations of approximately the same composition. (N.Y. Times, Apr.9)

Flour Centers A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of April 9 says: "Partly due to the erratic wheat market and partly to the gradual shift in milling operations, Minneapolis, for the first time in fifty years, has dropped to second place as a flour production center. Buffalo, which has for the last few years been gradually coming into the lead, has of late been turning out more flour than Minneapolis. This is hardly likely to continue for any great period, as the mill capacity here remains far ahead of any other city in the country. Just now the flour market is badly disorganized, due to the unsettled wheat market. The sharp breaks in the wheat pit have carried flour quotations down and there has been some buying at the reduced levels. But present prices are not regarded as enough of a bargain to start a rush of flour buying. Millers are getting numerous requests for extensions on delivery on old business and are finding it difficult to get shipping directions."

Immigrant Quotas The countries now having the largest immigration quotas, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Irish Free State and Germany, still have a total of 27,898 persons entitled to visas for the quota year, according to statistics made public by the State Department April 8. Germany's original quota of 51,227 has been depleted to 12,772; that of Great Britain with North Ireland, from 34,007 to 7,590, and that of the Irish Free State from 28,567 to 7,536. The Egyptian quota is nearest exhaustion, having been reduced from 100 to 5. The next lowest is that of the Danzig Free State, its quota of 100 having been depleted to 15. The Turkish quota, reduced to 17, is the third lowest. (Press, Apr. 9.)

Stock Market An editorial in /The Magazine of Wall Street/ for April 11 says: "Following the exceptionally drastic and swift decline in the stock market which carried the averages down from 112.85 on March 3 to 101.16 on March 30, there was a technical rally. After this rally had reached its culmination, prices first slumped, then rallying again, and at this writing are about 105. After the prolonged decline the rally is natural but it is not to be assumed that the temporary halt to falling prices is a guarantee of an impending upward move. The fact is that the market declined in response to (1) an over-extended speculative position and (2) to disappointment over the failure of business to measure up to expectations. The steady decline in commodity prices and the commencement of contraction in industrial activities does not exactly furnish a basis for rising stock prices. The first quarter of the year ended, it is now possible to hazard a prediction as to the course of business during the next few months. Examination of the situation leads us to believe that consumers have the advantage; that no basis exists for a rise in commodity prices; that competition is increasing; and that the profit margin will probably narrow."

Wheat Market Investigation

An editorial in The Nor' - West Farmer for April 6 says: "To think of investigating wheat marketing is to laugh. Not because the business does not need investigating every now and then, but because of the several abortive investigations that have been carried out in this country and no one knows how many in the United States, where the penchant for investigating grain marketing is much stronger than with us. It is extremely doubtful if anything of value will come of an inquiry as to whether or not prices were depressed by an understanding between large operators, for while no doubt there were many such operating in Chicago Board of Trade, Winnipeg Grain Exchange and other wheat markets the debacle was not so much their work as it was the unorganized effort of thousands of five and teh thousand bushel traders, and even thousand bushel men and women to get out when the structure their own activities had reared began to show signs of collapsing. The public this time largely was responsible for what happened to wheat prices."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended April 11: In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is firm to $1 higher; veal 50¢ to $2 higher; lamb $1 to $2 lower; mutton steady and pork loins $2 lower to $3 higher. April 11 prices good grade meats: Beef $16 to $17.50; veal $15 to $19; lamb $20 to $25; mutton $15 to $17; light pork loins $24 to $25; heavy loins $17 to $19.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes closed 50¢ to $1.50 lower in leading markets at $7.50 to $8.25 per barrel, top of $8.50 in Pittsburgh; steady at $6.f.o.b. Hastings. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage generally stronger with price gains of 20¢ to 25¢ in a few markets, closing at $1.40 to $2.00 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Old onions unsettled, new stock lower. New York yellows ranged $3 to $4 per 100 pound sack in eastern cities. Texas Yellow Bermudas declined about $1 at $2.40 to $3.00 per crate, commercial pack in eastern markets and $2 to $2.50 for U.S. No. 1 and commercial pack in the Middle West; 35¢ to 45¢ lower at $1.30 to $1.40 f.o.b. Laredo. New York Baldwin apples slightly stronger at $6 to $7 per barrel. Northwestern extra fancy Winesaps most $3.50 to $3.75 per box.

Grain market advancing. May wheat futures up about 17 to 18 cents from week ago on Government report on winter wheat condition. New crop futures lagging account relief of drought in Southwest. Corn futures up about 15 cents on strength in wheat and good demand for better grades of cash corn. Oats futures about 3 1/2 cents higher but big supplies prevent further advances. Cash oats firm on light arrivals.

Butter markets unsettled although steady to firm at close of week, erratic price changes have occurred both up and down. Some Canadian and Argentine arrivals. Foreign markets lower. Closing prices on 92 score: New York 43¢; Chicago 42¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

Cheese markets about steady. Prices irregular and lower and sentiment mixed. Trading on the whole quiet. Wholesale prices at Wisconsin primary markets April 10: Single Daisies 23 1/4¢; Young Americas 22 3/4¢; Longhorns 23¢; Square Prints 23 1/4¢.

No cotton report account Easter holidays. (Prepared by Bu. of Agri. Econ.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 12 Section 1 April 14, 1925

THE PRESIDENT ORDERS TARIFF RISE — Acting under the flexible clause of the tariff law, President Coolidge has advanced the duty on potassium chlorate from 1 1/2 cents to 2 1/4 cents a pound. The proclamation followed a report of the Tariff Commission, which made an investigation to ascertain the differences in costs of production in this country and Germany, the principal competing Nation. This is the sixth time the President has increased the tariff under the flexible clause. The most important increase was on wheat, which was increased from 30 to 45 cents a bushel. (Press, Apr. 14.)

THE FLEXIBLE TARIFF — An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "The existing tariff was enacted at a time when foreign prices were rising in falling currencies, so the Republicans revived the theory of a commission which might alter rates found to be excessive. The power to change rates was given to the President upon the advice of the new commission. But the plan has broken down. The flexible clauses have been used rather to increase than to reduce excessive customs rates, and the theory of basing tariff rates on comparison of costs of production at home and abroad has been found unworkable. The finding of costs depends upon how the accounts are kept, and nobody is satisfied with the manner of keeping the books which show results not desired. Just now the working of the flexible clauses has run up against strong foreign objections. American producers defend themselves against inquisitorial methods of probers into private matters. Yet embargoes have been laid upon imports in cases where the foreign costs of production have been refused. The result is that four nations have protested against the inquisition by American agents. Production costs were sought on pledge of confidence, but our courts have held within a few days that facts which are the basis of official action are not confidential. The Treasury and the Tariff Commission hold that 'foreign producers may not defeat the operation of the flexible tariff by declining to furnish information.' They may, however, take an equally high tone about defending their domestic interests against inquiries by outsiders that betray business secrets."

BRITISH POTATO EMBARGO — Advices from London to the press to-day indicate that Great Britain may soon lift the embargo against American potatoes infected with potato bugs, imposed several months ago. A protest by this Government asserted that the bug was not migratory, and pointed out that the British embargo did not apply to potatoes from Canada, where the potato bug is said to prevail quite as extensively as in this country. Great Britain replied that the embargo had been made effective against all her Dominions, including Canada. Officials here believe that the embargo will be vacated soon. The State Department made its protest following appeals to the President by New England potato growers.

TO STUDY PINE WEEVIL — An Amherst, Mass., dispatch to the press to-day states that gifts of $5,000 for two years study of white pine weevil, which severely damages timber each year by destroying the terminal shoots of young trees, were announced there yesterday by Director S. T. Dana of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station.

Section 2

Cattle Loans Renewed interest in the formation of cattle loan organizations under Federal charter is being manifested in the West and Southwest, it was learned April 10 at the Treasury. Inquiries being received as to the formalities of forming national agricultural credit corporations under the terms of the Rural Credits law were declared to forecast the early incorporation of a number of these organizations. Reports have reached the Treasury that a large cattle loan organization is to be formed in California, with a capital of some $500,000 and an application is expected to be made to Comptroller McIntosh for a Federal charter. In the Southwest the formation of a number of smaller agencies is anticipated in the near future, with prospects of a growth in their number as the cattle sections of the country begin to take advantage of the provisions of the Rural Credits act providing for Federal charters for cattle corporation which heretofore have been entirely neglected. (Jour. of Commerce, Apr. 11.)

Cost Inquiry Protested Protests made by Switzerland and other Governments of Europe against the activities of American Treasury agents in investigating costs of production with a view to assuring a more intelligent administration of the tariff laws of this country have been referred to the Treasury Department by Secretary of State Kellogg. It has just been disclosed that attempts on the part of the American representatives to gain exact information concerning foreign costs of production have been made the subject of protest by Great Britain, France, and Sweden as well as Switzerland. It has been found that foreign manufacturers are unwilling in many instances to reveal what they consider to be their own private affairs or business secrets. (Press, Apr. 13.)

Federal Farm Loans Glenn Griswold, writing in Chicago Journal of Commerce for April 9, says: "The best measure of what agricultural depression did for the farmer is afforded by the eighth annual report of the Federal Farm Loan Board, despite the fact that the reports of the board hide information without entirely concealing it in a manner that would not be tolerated in an insurance company, a bank, or any other fiscal institution privately operated and governmentally regulated. Those who are not accustomed to the accounting and publicity habits of the Farm Loan Board probably will be amazed to know that the board not only presents no detailed report for a single year's operations, but gives cumulative totals covering eight years; and that it combines in those totals the operations of the Federal land banks and the joint stock land banks, two institutions totally different in their operations and quite apart in the matter of public interest. During the first seven years of the existence of the system and up to the end of 1923, the Federal land banks and joint stock land banks together had begun foreclosure proceedings on 2,910 farms and had acquired 852 farms of which they had sold 128. By subtracting these totals from the confusing and cumulative totals for eight years, including 1924, one finds that in the year 1924 the banks began foreclosure proceedings on 2,226 farms and acquired 544, of which 118 were sold. In other words, the agricultural distress of 1924, so far as it may be measured by foreclosures and surrenders, was almost equal to that of the previous seven years. Those who have been unfriendly to the Federal system of farm financing have stated directly and intimated frequently that when a balance is finally cast, the system

will be found to have loaned more than land is worth in countless instances, and that the total of such losses will be large. So far as the eight annual reports already issued reveal the facts, experience would seem to be quite the contrary. Up to and including 1923, the two Federal systems had shown a profit of $27,065 on the farm lands which they had taken under mortgage and subsequently sold. Similar operations in 1924 showed a loss of $28,731; so that in this respect the ledger almost balances. These figures of course have to do only with land that has been taken in that foreclosures were remarkably high during 1924, while loans were unusually low. This might suggest that the farmer who had equity enough in this land to work out his problem, having learned the evil of easy credit, was not borrowing in 1924, while those whose equity was so small that no further aid could be given them, surrendered. The Federal land banks closed $165,509,845 of loans in 1924, which was about 14 per cent less than 1923. The experience of the joint stock land banks was quite different. They loaned but $74,586,761, which was 60 per cent less than the business done in 1923."

Federal Reserve System and Speculation

An editorial in The Commercial & Financial Chronicle for April 11 says: "Now that the gigantic speculation in both grain and in stocks, which was in progress for so many months, has signally and utterly collapsed, causing havoc on every side, it is in the highest degree important to determine the part therein that the Federal Reserve System has played. Under the country's old banking and currency system, before the establishment of the Federal Reserve banks, wild speculations in stocks were of frequent occurrence, but they were always ascribed to the defects of that system. There were two main defects. One related to our bank note issues. National bank notes were wholly lacking in the element of elasticity. Their emission was dependent, not upon considerations affecting trade, but upon the question whether the operation yielded a profit. Being governed wholly by the matter of profits, their volume did not undergo contraction when there was no longer need for them in trade, but they remained out indefinitely. The other defect concerned the reserve requirements of the national banks. The country banks could keep a considerable part of their reserves with the banks in the reserve cities, and the latter in turn could and did keep a large part of their reserves in the central reserve cities. The result was that in dull times all the idle funds of the country gravitated towards the central reserve cities, and in particular at New York, where the congestion led to the wildest kind of speculation in the stock market. The banks had to find employment in some way for their excess funds, and if they could not find it in trade channels they had to have recourse to loans on the stock exchange. These stock exchange loans were nominally demand loans subject to call at any time, but, in cases of emergency at least, the process of recall was not easy and not infrequently not possible. Thus it would happen that in the autumn, when the crop moving season arrived and the interior banks needed their funds at home, there was always a dubious element in the operation. ..."

Foreign Relations Meeting

The complete program for the third biennial conference of the International Chamber of Commerce to be held at Brussels June 21 to 27 was made public to-day at the Washington headquarters of the chamber. The meeting will bring together representatives of forty nations to discuss common problems, to consider means of facilitating trade

between countries, and to further the adoption and simplification of commercial practices by which the interchange of goods between peoples is carried on.

Grain Market Investigation

The Northwestern Miller for April 8 says: "Amid the demands for an investigation of the wheat market, and for the summary punishment of somebody or other -- it matters little who the victim may be -- for having permitted the price to fluctuate so violently, it does not seem to occur to people in general that what is really needed is not more knowledge of how the wheat market works, but more accurate information regarding the underlying causes for wheat price movements. To claim that the recent decline in the market is due to some mysterious failure of the trading machinery to function properly is as absurd as to insist that it is the furnace and not the coal which provides the heat. For more than two years the grain trade complained that the Capper-Tincher act had shut off speculative trading in grain; now the public is clamoring that the act leaves speculative trading without restraint. The fact is, of course, that the law has practically nothing to do with the volume of grain futures bought and sold, and still less to do with any maintenance of a stable price level. For two years trading was limited because speculators saw nothing in the world situation suggestive of large profits; in the past four months trading has been enormously active because speculators thought there was money to be made out of it. All this part of the business is elementary, and investigations of the methods of the grain exchanges will get precisely nowhere. No form of regulation of the methods of grain trading will ever prevent sudden and violent price fluctuations whenever the public is actively interested; if people want to buy, they will buy, and the price will go up; if they want to sell, the price will go down. The exact methods by which all this is done are relatively unimportant. The real causes for violent wheat price fluctuations are to be found largely in the utter inadequacy and inaccuracy of the available information regarding supply and demand. On these points the whole world is still in a very bad muddle. Crop estimates are largely evolved by rule of thumb; figures for stocks and carryover are guesswork, and actual consumption is worked out backward, with amazing discrepancies in the results. For example, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates the per capita wheat consumption of Canada as 9.5 bushels. A leading Canadian mill, writing to The Northwestern Miller, puts the figure at about five bushels. This little difference means a variation of 40,000,000 bushels in Canada's domestic requirements, and a half or a quarter of that amount added to or subtracted from the Argentine or Australian crop estimates would be quite enough to set all the wheat markets of the world in rapid motion. What the wheat market needs is more knowledge, and above all more dependable knowledge, of the real facts. It is a job, not for policemen, but for statisticians. Despite our cables and our telegraph lines, world trade has gone ahead faster than world news. The conditions which sent wheat prices first up and then down were not created on any trading floor; they were the natural products of complex and far-reaching causes, immensely exaggerated in their results because they were so vaguely comprehended. If Congress wants to stabilize the wheat market, it should drop the idea of futile investigations of trading methods, and devote its attention to giving the public more nearly complete and accurate information regarding the underlying forces on which the price of wheat depends."

Humane Trapping Sought — A New York dispatch to the press of April 13 states that plans for a Nation-wide campaign to check cruelties to fur-bearing animals inflicted by present trapping methods were announced there April 12 by the Humane Trapping Committee, a new organization. The committee hopes to obtain enactment of State laws prohibiting the use of non-killing traps. Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, who initially financed the movement, will be honorary chairman. Frank B. Rutherford, operative manager of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, will be a member.

Spanish Wheat Imports — A Madrid dispatch to the press of April 9 states that by virtue of a royal decree signed April 8 by King Alfonso foreign wheat again may be imported into Spain. The decree lifts the embargo on foreign imports and authorizes the Central Food Commission to acquire foreign wheat for the purpose of making flour.

Tax Revision — The press of April 13 states that President Coolidge is preparing to give his personal attention to the administration's program for tax revision at the next session of Congress, it was made known at the White House. Mr. Coolidge is preparing for an early conference with Secretary Mellon to discuss the effect of the March 15 income tax collections upon a further downward revision of tax rates.

In an editorial on the subject, The Journal of Commerce for April 13 says: " ... Real achievement will depend, however, upon the adoption of a much broader and much more fearless attitude of mind than has usually been in evidence when this and similar topics have heretofore been under consideration. A good many dollars could be saved by eliminating duplication of work and by creating an organization in Washington which would be capable of performing its tasks with the smoothness and dispatch customarily practiced in a well planned business enterprise. This opportunity ought not to be neglected. That much goes without saying. But what we need is a saving, not of dollars, but of millions of dollars. Such economy can be realized only by wholly eliminating a good many of the useless and often harmful activities now being carried on by the Federal Government. ... Obviously many broad issues of policy will be involved in any program of retrenchment which can be expected to produce much saving to the taxpayer, and since in the end Congress in large measure fixes such policies, it is essential that the work be done in close cooperation with Congressional leaders. The President must undertake not only to have plans drawn up for the purpose he has in mind but must gain the consent of the legislative branch of the Government to make such plans effective. Here, of course, the whole program is most likely to meet a snag. Yet the approval of Congress is essential and ought to be secured if possible in advance. That end can probably best be reached, if it can be attained at all, by making plans which will so appeal to the public at large that recalcitrant legislators will not dare oppose it."

Waste Conference — The first industrial round table, which proposes, by educational conferences, to bring about as far as possible the elimination of industrial waste and the minimization of industrial strife, was launched by the National Civic Federation at New York April 11. Similar councils will be established in other cities. Representatives of millions of organized workers, officials of trust companies, banking and real estate

organizations representing billions of dollars of capital, and officials of educational institutions, engineers, lawyers, architects and other professional men listened to speeches by Secretary of Commerce Herbert C. Hoover, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, President Gerard Swope of the General Electric Company, D. L. Cease of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and Marcus M. Marks, former president of the Borough of Manhattan. Alton B. Parker, president of the National Civic Federation, was chairman. The topic of discussion was "Eliminate Industrial Waste -- Minimize Industrial Controversy." Secretary Hoover, referring to the growth of interest by labor in its responsibility for the functioning of the whole economic machine, declared that the fund from which labor must expect the maintenance of present wages or an increase in real wages lies in more efficient production and the elimination of waste. He saw looming up in the American industrial world a new relationship in industry. Ownership of industry has largely been divorced from management and is being rapidly diffused over millions of individuals, none able to dictate management. Industry is coming, he said, into a tripartite responsibility to the consumer, the worker "and grudgingly to a regard for capital only to the extent that it shall be commanded on the best possible terms for the expansion and conduct of the industry." (Press, Apr. 12.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 13: New York Round White potatoes steady to slightly weaker, closing at $1 to $1.15 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern markets. Florida and South Carolina pointed type cabbage firm at $1.25 to $1.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 50¢ to $1.00 lower at $2 to $2.50 per crate, commercial pack, in consuming centers; $1.30 to $1.35 f.o.b. Laredo. New York Baldwin apples steady to firm at $6.50 to $7.50 per barrel. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, original pack steady at $6 to $6.75 per six-basket carrier. Louisiana Klondike strawberries ranged fairly steady at $5.50 to $6.50 per 24-pint crate in city markets; $4.75 to $5.20 f.o.b. Hammond.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13 for the top and $12.60 to $12.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $4.65 to $11.75; feeder steers $5.25 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $12. Fat lambs $13.75 to $16; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10.25 to $13 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Grain prices quoted April 13: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.51 to $1.82. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.87; Kansas City $1.72 to $1.79. No. 3 red winter Chicago $1.71 1/2 to $1.73 1/2. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.63; Kansas City $1.73. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.09; Minneapolis 97 1/2 to 99 1/2¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.15; Kansas City $1.11 to $1.12. No. 2 yellow corn St. Louis $1.12; No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.10 1/2 to $1.14; Minneapolis $1.01 1/2 to $1.03 1/2. No.2 white corn St.Louis $1.11 1/2 to $1.12 1/2; Kansas City $1.08; No.3 white corn Chicago $1.06 to $1.09 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 43 1/4 to 46¢; Minneapolis 38 7/8 yo 39 3/8¢; St.Louis 47 to 49¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 49 1/2 to 51¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 43¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 45¢. Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 3 points, closing at 24.34¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 1 point, closing at 24.17¢. (Prepared by Bu.Agr.Econ)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVII, No. 13 Section 1 April 15, 1925

NATIONAL FORESTS PLANNED The press to-day states that establishment of national forests in eight military reservations in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia is provided for under an executive order signed by President Coolidge, made public April 14 by the War Department. The reservations are Pines Plains and Camp Upton, New York; Camp Dix, New Jersey; Tobyhanna Artillery Range, Pennsylvania; Camp Meade, Maryland, and Forts Humphreys, Eustis and Lee, Virginia.

JARDINE SUCCEEDED BY FARRELL IN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that Acting President Farrell of the Kansas State Agricultural College has been appointed to the advisory council of the agricultural commission, American Bankers Association, by President Knox of the organization to succeed W. M. Jardine who resigned following his appointment by President Coolidge as Secretary of Agriculture. President Farrell, who has also temporarily succeeded Secretary Jardine as head of the Kansas Agricultural College, where he became Dean of Agriculture in 1918, has been active in the agricultural work of both State and national bankers' associations. The agricultural commission of the American Bankers Association, to whose advisory council President Farrell has accepted appointment, consists of twelve bankers, one for each Federal Reserve district. It was formed for the purpose of bringing bankers, farmers and the authorities of the State agricultural colleges into closer relationship for mutual understanding and assistance. The advisory council of the commission in addition to the newly added member consists of H. L. Russell, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, and W. R. Dodson, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Louisiana State University. Secretary Jardine in his letter of resignation from the advisory council stated that the pressing demands upon his time from his new duties made such action necessary. In accepting the resignation, F. N. Shepherd, executive manager of the association, said he wished "to express appreciation for the fine assistance which you have accorded us and to assure you that we stand ready at all times to uphold you in your present task."

LODGE BIRD REFUGE AUTHORIZED A Boston dispatch to the press of April 15 states that the State Senate of Massachusetts April 14 unanimously rejected an adverse report of the committee on ways and means and passed to be engrossed a bill establishing Egg Rock Island as a refuge for wild birds, to be known as the Henry Cabot Lodge Bird Sanctuary. The island is off Nahant near the home of the late Senator Lodge.

SUGAR MAKING IN CUBA Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, who returned to New York yesterday from his annual Cuban inspection trip, said: "The centrals Cunagua and Jaronu at the end of March were leading all mills in Cuba in production and will finish their crop early The outturn will be very close to the original estimate of 1,200,000 bags. In four months these centrals produced 1,000,000 bags of Cuban raw sugar."(Press, Apr. 15.)

Section 2

British Industries

The capital invested in the manufacture of iron and steel in Great Britain is estimated to be 150,000,000 pounds, and, according to the Board of Trade returns, the exports of iron and steel in 1924 amounted in valuation to 74,548,000 pounds, being the second largest single item after cotton, which was valued at 199,297,000 pounds, according to advices just received by Bankers Trust Company of New York from its British information service. The assembly of the raw materials, coal, iron ore, etc., and the transport of the finished product contributed about 18 per cent of volume and 15 to 20 per cent in value of the merchandise revenue of the British railways in 1924.

Cotton in French Africa

France has for some time past been endeavoring to create in her African colonies an alternative or supplementary source of supply of raw cotton for the French mills. The result of these efforts during the past few years was recently analyzed in a survey made by the "Journee Industrielle," of which the following summary has been received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its French information service:

In Senegal it is estimated that there are between 500,000 and 600,000 hectares suitable for cotton cultivation, but the actual area under cultivation is considerably less, and the produce is almost entirely consumed locally, the only exception being the cotton grown in the Matam and Bakel districts of which a portion is exported. There are no ginning factories in Senegal, the separation of the fibres from the seed being done by hand, generally by women, who, when they become expert at the work, can separate about 600 grammes of fibre per hour. In the French Sudan cotton cultivation occupies a much more important place in the economic life of the colony. In 1923 about 554 metric tons were exported, and the local consumption accounted for approximately the same quantity. It is estimated that there are about 1,500,000 hectares of land suitable for cotton cultivation in the Niger valley. Sakellaridis and Nitafifi varieties of Egyptian cotton have been successfully introduced and acclimatized, besides several American varieties. There are about 36,000 hectares under regular cultivation in the Haute Volta, producing approximately 400 tons of ginned cotton annually. The "Association Cotonniere Coloniale" is putting up ginning factories at several centers, and efficient motor and railway transport services have been inaugurated. Very little cotton has been grown on the Ivory Coast, in spite of the fact that the ground is particularly suitable for the plant. The reason is that other crops are more profitable. The 1924 crop in this colony amounted to nearly 1,300 tons, but the whole quantity went to satisfy local requirements. In French Guinea nearly 3,000 tons were produced from 1,200 hectares, and in order to develop this branch of agriculture, the Government is offering free plots, of 200 hectares each, to persons having a capital of 5,000 francs. The lack of means of transport in Dahomey has retarded progress, but in spite of this, exports rose from 276 tons in 1922 to 313 tons in 1923. A few years ago Sea Island cotton was introduced successfully into this colony. The total crop in Togoland in 1923 amounted to 920 tons, of which about four-fifths was exported. It is not expected that any considerable quantity of cotton will be available from French Equatorial Africa or the Cameroons, as the supply hardly equals the local demand, even though these two colonies are sparsely populated. In the Cameroons some of the best cotton grown

is comparable with medium-grade Egyptian varieties. The introduction of American varieties was not an unqualified success. In Algeria a start was made in 1922 with 28 hectares, which produced 125 bales of ginned cotton. In 1923 the area was increased to 55 hectares, and the production was 265 bales. In 1924 100 hectares were sown in the Bone and Philippeville districts respectively, 800 hectares in the Orleansville, and 1,000 hectares in the Oranie districts. The concensus of opinion seems to be that France will never be self-supporting in the matter of cotton but that the quantity imported from foreign countries can be considerably reduced, if the development which has been started in the colonies follows its normal course.

Reclamation

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 9 says: "Senator McNary, the enthusiastic advocate of subsidized export of farm products, is now sponsoring a reclamation project that would involve another sort of lavish and wasteful expenditure of Government funds presumably in the interests of agriculture. As in the export bill which the Senator fathered, an attempt is made in the present plan to show that the expense of reclamation would ultimately be borne by beneficiaries, but there is no assurance to be extracted from the explanatory outline of the project that such would be the case. A Government appropriation of from $350,000,000 to $500,000,000 is contemplated, from which advances would be made to groups of citizens for the purpose of reclaiming waste and unused lands, and also for the development of hydro-electric projects under quasi-public authority and the sale of the power thus produced. As such enterprises became able to pay their way, bonds would be sold to the general public and the Government would be reimbursed for its advances. Doubts will arise at once as to the need for subsidies to projects that can pay their way. If a reclamation project or a hydro-electric development is likely to prove profitable, private capital can be counted upon to see its opportunities. Either Senator McNary's plan would encourage uneconomic development at the expense of the Government or its real purpose is to exclude from the field those private capitalistic groups which have already spent large sums in electric power developments."

Wheat Crop

The Wall Street Journal for April 14 says: "Official forecast of the winter wheat crop as of April 1 was 474,255,000 bushels against 590,000,000 harvested last year and a five-year average of 592,000,000 bushels. From this forecast the country appears to be facing the shortest winter wheat crop since 1917, and the second smallest in thirteen years. The United States has already exported over 210,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour from the crop of 1924, and there are still three months remaining of the present crop year. Although exports now are slowing down, due to the larger shipments from the southern hemisphere, it is a certainty that by the end of the crop year -- June 30 -- our reserve supply of wheat will be very small, probably half that of a year ago. With a minimum carryover and a crop of winter wheat which now in the face of the official forecast is 116,000,000 bushels less than that of a year ago it is obvious that our wheat production is likely to be small. It is a long time between April 1 and the harvest in July, and forecast now can not be counted as infallible. The history of the crop shows that April 1 forecasts are approximately correct more

times than they are wrong. There is, therefore, considerably more than an even chance that the winter wheat crop will be much under that of a year ago. Unusually favorable weather could change the outlook and turn what now seems a small crop into a large one. But the market can hardly deal in possibilities. It is safer to plan on basis of average weather conditions. The full extent of the crop damage is not yet known and cannot be until the May report. No one knows at this time how much of the present acreage will be abandoned because of winter killing. The Department of Agriculture indulges in no guessing on this score, but makes its forecast assuming that the abandonment will be neither greater nor less than the average of past years. This, of course, will be changed when the estimate of abandoned acreage is made. All reports to this newspaper in the winter wheat belt, as well as those of other experts, indicate that the abandoned acreage will be greater than the average. The probabilities are, therefore, that the May forecasts will be for small production. For winter rye the forecast also was a little less than average. The estimate was for 61,650,000 bushels compared with 63,400,000 bushels last year and 70,400,000 the five-year average. Taking wheat and rye together, the crop of winter bread grains is frankly short, and nothing is to be gained by concealing that fact or refusing to recognize it. This is a situation of which the grain market must take notice, particularly in the May and July futures."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture 1

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 14 says: "Every year at the opening of the season the question of cotton crop reporting recurs and is reconsidered by the business community in the hope of getting a more helpful management of its activities by the Department of Agriculture. Every year a decision is reached that more or less ignores the views of the business world and every season brings the corresponding unfortunate results which necessarily follow from hasty action or action based more on political matters than on economic considerations. But there is always the hope that wisdom may not linger too long and that experience may at last bring a stable and satisfactory policy in our crop reporting. The situation is particularly clear this spring because of the fact that the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association at its New Orleans convention has taken pains to explain exactly what it thinks of the methods of reporting followed last year and to indicate what should be the line of action for this year. In general it has two main criticisms upon what was done last year: 1. The placing of the crop reports upon a semi-monthly instead of a monthly basis. 2. The effort to make production reports or forecasts too early. As the outgrowth of these criticisms it recommends two changes for the coming season. 1. Confine reports to a monthly basis, and 2. Whether they be monthly or semi-monthly, at all events defer any actual forecasts of production until September because of the unreliability of figures issued at dates earlier than that. It will be observed that there is certainly nothing revolutionary in these suggestions. The first, if adopted, would merely abandon the experiment of last year and put the reporting service back to the status of 1923. The second is a recommendation often made in the past and never heeded, largely because of the belief that a more frequent basis of reporting would enable more accurate bale forecasts. Last year's efforts show the contrary of this assumption to be the case.

Why should not the Department of Agriculture shape its reports in such a way as to coincide with the views and needs of the business world? Because, according to unofficial exponents of its policy it regards itself as pepresenting not the buying community or millers but the selling community or farmers. Politics dictate to it that it shall not represent the entire country but that it shall align itself with the interests of the farmer or what are believed to be so. This is an attitude of mind time and again stated in so many words, both in Congress and out of it, and the attribution of it to the department is accordingly free of any injustice or misconstruction.

"Waiving the question whether the department does right definitely to accept the mission of representing the farmer as against other elements in the community, we may fairly inquire whether, in fact, the farmer profits by the crop reports as they are now issued. At all events, his best and most intelligent representatives do not think so. There were not a few representatives of the organized farmers of the country who last year criticized the department's semi-monthly reports and regretted the inaccuracies, far surpassing those of any recent year, to which the forecasts were subject in the course of the growing season. More than ever before the intelligent farm sentiment of the country was opposed to these reports, and for the very good reason that the farmer more than any other is now interested in stability and regularity of prices. During the past year many loans based upon cotton in warehouse were made in favor of cooperative associations, and in all of them was incorporated the provision that steady sales of so much a month should be carried on during the selling season, the purpose being to insure a steady liquidation of the warehoused product. It is clear that in such circumstances the farmer gets his advantage from steadiness of prices -- steadiness with a strong upward trend if possible, but at all events freedom from all ups and downs which unsettle the amount he is to get for his product. The main criticism against the department's methods last year was that they had an unsettling effect on the market and as such helped nobody except the speculator. ..."

epartment of griculture 2

The Outlook, in its issue for April 15, continues its series of editorials on the work of the Forest Service under the title "Benevolent Bureaucracy: Is it Managing Our Forests?" It says in part: "Gifford Pinchot, the first Forester, was an evangelist in office. He made forestry a cause. But more lately the Forest Service has won popularity for itself by making it easy for the people to use the forests as playgrounds. In a letter to The Outlook, written in reply to an inquiry of ours, Gifford Pinchot, now Governor of Pennsylvania, has frankly said that this has been one of the policies of the Forest Service from its earliest days, and adds: 'With the Forest Service the recreation use is incidental. But any man acquainted with State and National Forests knows that in populated regions their recreational use, while incidental, is an enormously important use the world around. Out of it comes a very large share of that public support which in the last analysis is the only thing that will make the forests safe.' Gradually, too, the Chiefs of the Forest Service have raised the standards of character and ability required of the Forest Service employees. Although in Mr. Gregg's article, which we published in February, criticizing certain policies of the Forest Service, there was no reflection upon the character of the Forest Service personnel, we have received many letters testifying to the

honesty, industry, and public spirit of the employees generally of the Forest Service and specifically of the forest rangers. In a letter in which he gives us much interesting information, Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, of Florida, writes: 'I have never encountered in any department of the Government a more intelligent, energetic, capable, and patriotic set of men. Many of them could obtain in private life much larger salaries than they are receiving. They all love the Service and are devoting their lives to a skillful solution of the problems, which means the conservation of our timber supplies and the highest and best uses of the Forest Reserves, in the public interest.' This tribute of Senator Fletcher's is characteristic of others which we have received from which we have no space to quote. Included in these tributes were tributes to the wives of married rangers. ... "

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 14: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes $7 to $8.50 per barrel in city markets; $5.50 to $6.00 f.o.b. Hastings. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage mostly $2.25 to $2.50 per barrel crate. New York yellow onions ranged $2.75 to $4.00 per 100 pound sack. Texas Yellow Bermudas, commercial pack, $2.25 to $2.50 per crate in eastern markets; $1.10 to $1.15 f.o.b. Laredo. New York Baldwin apples mostly $6.50 to $7.00 per barrel, top of $7.75 in Baltimore. Florida fancy tomatoes, ripe and turning, original pack; $5.75 to $6.75 per six-basket carrier, top of $7.50 in New York. Florida celery $2.25 to $2.75 per 10-inch crate in eastern markets, $3 to $3.25 in Chicago; $1.75 to $2.00 f.o.b. Sanford.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13 for the top; bulk of sales $12.60 to $13; medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $4.65 to $11.75; feeder steers $5.50 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $12; fat lambs $13.75 to $15.75; feeding lambs $14 to $15.35; yearlings $10 to $12.75 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Grain prices quoted April 14: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.54 to $1.85; No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.87 to $1.89; Kansas City $1.71. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.66; Kansas City $1.52 to $1.65. No. 2 mixed corn Chicago $1.09 1/2; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis 99 1/2 to $1.01 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.12 1/4; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.11 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.07 1/4; Minneapolis $1.03 1/2 to $1.05 1/2; St. Louis $1.08. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.04 to $1.07 1/2; No. 3 white corn St. Louis $1.09. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 to 42 1/2¢; Minneapolis 39 1/2 to 40¢; St. Louis 46 1/2 to 47¢; Kansas City 47 1/2 to 48¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 10 points, closing at 24.24¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 16 points, closing at 24.01¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 14	Apr. 13	Apr. 14, 1924
20 Industrials	121.54	120.18	89.91
20 R.R. stocks	95.46	94.46	80.55

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 15.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 14 Section 1 April 16, 1925

FEDERAL BUILDING NEEDS PICTURED The Washington Post to-day says: "Planning to fight again for the $50,000,000 public buildings program lost in the last Congress, the public buildings commission in its annual report about to be published makes the most pathetic plea yet offered for the relief of congestion, waste, fire hazard and inefficiency in the housing of governmental departments in this city. Not content with the setting forth of observations and cold statistics as heretofore, the commission has graphically illustrated its next report with pictures which tell forcibly the dangers daily besetting the lives of Government employees and the very existence of vital records. The pictures, the commission says, point out that 'in the face of hundreds of conditions such as these, it is a miracle that there has not been before this a catastrophe from fire in the Government buildings.' ..."

NEW DAIRY MERGERS The press to-day states that details in the plan to consolidate four ice cream and dairy companies of the New England States were said yesterday to have been worked out. Charles G. Morris, president of the New Haven Dairy Company and also of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company of New Haven, it was understood, would be elected president. The companies figuring in the consolidation, which will be known as the Eastern Dairies, Inc., are the New Haven Dairy Company, Tait Brothers, Inc., the Coon Ice Cream Company and the Dolbey Ice Cream Company. Over thirty plants will be operated. Financing will not be undertaken for a fortnight or so. The merger of eight Northern New York companies, which is entirely independent of the New England consolidation, is expected to include two Pennsylvania concerns in addition to those previously named. These are the Erie and the Lake Shore ice cream companies. The Horton Ice Cream Company of New York, according to latest reports, has declined thus far to engage in the undertaking, although it was understood that the door for further discussion was still left open.

COFFEE STORES OF BRAZIL J. C. Muntz, Acting Consul General for Brazil, at New York, in a letter to The New York Times to-day, says: "I am requested by Mario Tavares, president of the newly created Institute for the Defense of Coffee, to make known the results of an investigation made by the institute with regard to the existing stocks of coffee within the State of Sao Paulo. According to the telegram which I received, there were on March 31 2,695,970 bags of coffee in the regulatory warehouses of the State. The stocks in the railway stations and railway cars comprise 300,000 bags. The amount of coffee in the plantations is reported to be insignificant, judging from the recent shipments, which have not exceeded more than 1,000 bags daily at the railway stations of the two most important companies, the Paulista and Mogyana."

DOMINICAN CORN EXPORTS A report received by Rodman Wanamaker, Consul in Philadelphia for the Dominican Republic, brings news that that country is now an exporter of corn. The Government uses particular care in seeing that this grain is exported in good condition.

Section 2

Arbor-Forest Day in New York

An editorial in The New York Times for April 12 says: "Arbor Day, now merged into Forest Day, occurs this year on Friday, April 17, in southeastern New York. ... Throughout the State there were 4,000,000 unproductive acres suited to tree-growing. It is the purpose to cover these lands with woods. The Conservation Commission sells two-year-old trees at $2 a thousand, and three-year-olds at $4, to encourage planting. For publicly owned land the infant trees are free, the only charge being for transportation. All over the State school districts are planting on the day appointed. They, together with counties, cities and towns, may acquire public lands to turn into forests. In Europe there are towns that pay their taxes from the sale of timber grown in the communal woods. School districts in New York are planning to pay the cost of education in the same way. Broome is the banner tree-planting county. It proposes to plant 40,000 acres. Last year 86,000 young trees were set out in Broome, of which 26,900 represented the work of enthusiastic school children. But anybody who has a tract of idle land, though it be an acre or less, may get 2,000 transplants packed in a crate and weighing only seventy-five pounds from the Conservation Commission. Application may be made to the nurseries at Saratoga Springs, Lowville and Clear Lake. ..."

Chinchilla Rabbits in Saskatchewan

A Moose Jaw dispatch to the press of April 13 states that Howard Smith, a railwayman of that city, has started something new in Canada in the way of farming, the raising of chinchilla rabbits for the commercial trade. Chinchilla rabbits are small and blue-gray, and about the size of squirrels. These rabbits are found naturally only on the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains in Chile, Peru and Bolivia. They are small, hopping animals and make deep burrows in the ground, especially between rocks. They eat almost anything, and thrive in cold weather.

Cooperative Grain Selling

An editorial in Farm, Stock & Home for April 1 says: "Some cooperative elevators are handling grain now like the livestock shipping association handles livestock. Instead of buying the grain, paying cash for it on delivery and taking the chances of its going down, the elevator ships the grain right out, deducts a charge for operating expenses, and turns over the balance to the farmer. It is real cooperative grain selling, and reduces the chances of loss to the association, giving the farmer, of course, all that his grain brings. The only disadvantage is that he has to wait a little while for his money."

Cotton Prices

The Commerce Department will probably grant the request of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association as outlined in resolutions adopted at the New Orleans convention for the investigation of the relationship between fluctuations in the prices of raw cotton and price levels on cotton goods, it was indicated April 14 by Secretary Hoover. He said that the resolutions had not been brought to his personal attention, but he did not think the cotton study desired would be a difficult task for the department. (Press, Apr. 15.)

Farm Holdings in England

The Field (London) for March 26 says: "According to a recent statement from the Ministry of Agriculture there were at the end of January approximately 17,000 unsatisfied applicants for small holdings in

England and Wales, the area applied for being 265,000 acres. This is a clear indication that the hunger for land, no doubt greatly stimulated by war conditions, is still unsatisfied. Of the 17,000 unsatisfied applicants for holdings under the Ministry's scheme some 8,000 have been approved by the local authorities concerned and no less than 3,243 are ex-Service men who applied before December 1, 1920, and were promised priority. In the opinion of many, both of those who have been concerned in settling men on the land and of those who have merely been sympathetic observers, there should now be a thorough investigation of the position as regards small holdings in Great Britain. There are not a few enthusiasts about the country who are urging that the time is ripe for a rapid extension of smallholdings, but before the Nation is committed to any new schemes we think that the whole position should be reviewed in the light of the experience that has been gained in this country and on the Continent. In this country we have learned a good deal about the creation and administration of smallholdings, expecially under the Act of 1908 and since the war. Full advantage must be taken of the costly lessons of the last five years, during which the Nation has invested 15,000,000 pounds in settling over 23,000 men. In some instances the problems that have faced the authorities have been peculiar to this country, but more often similar difficulties have confronted every nation that has embarked upon this social experiment. Denmark is rightly held up by enthusiasts as a shining example in this matter of smallholdings and it may be useful to outline the methods of land settlement that have proved successful in that country. It must be remembered that conditions are by no means similar in Great Britain, and it does not follow that the methods which have succeeded in Denmark will necessarily succeed here. The two outstanding features in the smallholdings legislation of Denmark are the Acts of 1899 and of 1919. The first was a compromise between many interests. It was intended to help the moneyless agricultural laborer to take up small farms, but it also aimed at securing more labor for the large farms by making the holdings of such a size that the smallholder would find time in which to work for others. (The later act definitely laid down the principle smallholdings should be large enough to support a family). Under the Act of 1899 the holding is bought in the open market. The prospective smallholder can claim assistance from the parish council in selecting a suitable plot and a number of 'parcelling out associations' have been formed on private initiative to acquire and divide up suitable estates. The largest association, operating in Zealand, Funen and more recently Slesvig, had by the end of 1923 bought 122 estates and parcelled them out into 1,450 holdings. A state loan is available for individual smallholders to an amount not exceeding nine-tenths of the loan value of the holding, i.e., the total value of the land, buildings, livestock and implements. The loan is guaranteed by a mortgage on the holding and part of it becomes available as soon as the house is roofed in, but the applicant must have sufficient means of his own to cover the cost of stocking and the necessary margin of working capital. Under the Act of 1919 the holding can only be established on public land. For the most part this public land came into the hands of the State in 1919 when it was provided by the Rigsdad that glebe land should be gradually sold for smallholdings, and that entailed estates could be freed on payment to the State of 20 to 25 per cent of the value of the land and on a proportion of the estate being transferred to the State for smallholdings. Under the 1919 Act no purchase money is paid

by the smallholder who pays instead an annual amount based upon periodic valuations. A Government loan is only granted towards the erection of the buildings and not towards the acquisition of land or stock."

Farm Profits

The Florida Times-Union for April 9 says: "In any line of manufacture there are two ways of adding to profits. One is by selling the commodity produced at a higher price. The other is by reducing the cost of production. The first is seldom feasible, except by causing an artificial scarcity by a general agreement among those producing the same commodity, forming a monopoly, to lessen the amount of production -- by a 'combination in restraint of trade.' This is unlawful and, in one business, that of farming, it is impracticable. The second is within the power of any manufacturer, whatever the commodity, or commodities, he manufactures. It is individual effort and requires study and thought; study of the conditions under which production proceeds and thought how those conditions may be improved in the direction of lessening costs per unit. Increase in the number of units, as in the number of bushels of a crop from an acre, produced through any one factor, or combination of factors, entering into production, is one way. It may involve additional first cost, as when more fertilizer is used, but if it results in a greatly increased crop this increase may warrant the additional outlay, as when twenty per cent more fertilizer makes a fifty per cent larger crop. Or it may lie in deeper or more frequent plowing, or more cultivation. The procuring, or production, of better seed, even at a higher cost, may prove economical. Better feeding or treatment of his farm animals may lead to an increase of the farmer's profits. In the elimination of wastes may lie the secret of a greater income from his acres. It is waste to raise a crop of corn and then turn it over to the mercy of a horde of weevils, or a crop of peas and allow insects to eat up his profits through carelessness in storing these crops. The farmer who, when asked what he fertilized his fields with to produce the fine crops he was able to show, replied, laconically, 'Brains,' was probably about right. It requires brains to be a uniformly successful farmer. Such a man will be watchful to cut out waste, of which there is much on many farms. 'Bunper' crops may mean low prices, but even then the farmer who produces a crop of the commodity which is in excess will make more money from it than will his neighbors if he has succeeded in raising it at a less cost per bushel, or whatever the unit may be, than they have. In an article in the Dearborn Independent, Robert Stewart, of the University of Nevada, quotes data from a farm management survey in Texas showing the influence of increased yields on the reduction of the bushel cost of producing corn. Where the yield per acre was twenty bushels that cost was 94 cents, where it was from twenty-one to thirty bushels the cost per bushel was 53 cents, where it was thirty-one bushels or more the cost was only 45 cents. Whatever the profit the man who raised the smallest of these amounts may have received on his crop of corn, the man who raised the largest amount quoted made 49 cents a bushel more for his crop."

Farm Value in Alabama

An Auburn, Ala., dispatch to the press of April 13 reports: "Alabama farms are increasing in value, says F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician, who has just completed a study of prices in 1925, as compared with 1924. There has been a uniform advance in the value of farm lands in the State of from $2 to $4 per acre. Average value for poor-grade

plow lands in 1924 was $16, compared with $18 in 1925, while the better grade lands valued at $35 per acre in 1924 average $39 value this year. The average for all plow lands has advanced from $26 in 1924 to $28 in 1925. Mr. Gist found that cash rents for plow lands now average $4.45, compared with $4.15 an acre a year ago. For whole farms the acreage rental in 1924 was $3.35, against $3.50 at present. The rental of pasture lands is the same as a year ago, $1.85 an acre."

Federal Farm Loans

Mortgage foreclosures by the Federal Farm Loan System have amounted to only three-tenths of 1 per cent of the loans made in the eight years of existence of the Federal land banks and the joint stock land banks, it was disclosed April 12 in an analysis by Commissioner R. A. Cooper. Losses on real estate sales sustained by the banks in the period was "only equal to one day's net profits of the banks," he said, and pointed to the foreclosure record as an index to the "essentially sound and stable conditions of agriculture throughout the country." Loans numbering 403,906 in the eight years aggregated $1,535,198,-933, and of the farms involved only 1,396 were acquired by the banks through foreclosure. (Press, Apr. 13.)

Fertilizer Sales

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of April 13 states that Secretary Hester of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange has issued a report on sales of fertilizer tags. According to these figures the sales for the eight months of the season to the end of March totaled 2,406,137 tons, as compared with 2,260,208 tons for the corresponding period last season and 2,047,512 tons the season before last. This large increase in demand for fertilizers, despite the higher prices asked for the goods, is considered a certain indication that farmers, particularly in the central and eastern portions of the belt where commercial fertilizers are mainly used, intend to materially increase acreage this season, and all advices received on that subject bear out that impression.

Potassium Chlorate Tariffs

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 15 says: "Following the unanimous recommendation of the members of the Tariff Commission and in the absence of embarrassing domestic protests, such as the sugar tariff proposals encountered, the President has decided to increase the duty on potassium chlorate by 50 per cent. The new rate is said to constitute a very complete protection against German imports, which have greatly expanded of late years under competitive conditions which have brought about a sharp drop in prices. In four years these imports, chiefly from Germany, have risen from about 2,000,000 pounds to 10,000,-000 pounds, whereas the value of the imports has only advanced from $179,600 to $421,500. Here is a case to which the flexible tariff appears to be genuinely applicable, if one accepts the principle underlying the whole idea. The facts are fairly easy to interpret, the interests affected are not numerous and the commodity is an explosive whose domestic manufacture is regarded as desirable for other than purely economic reasons. It is still an open question, however, whether the increased duty will serve its purpose of excluding the foreign commodity. One of the chief domestic producers is authority for the statement that prices in the United States will not be affected by the tariff change. ... There is this to be said for flexible tariffs: they offer opportunities for case studies of the effect of changes in import duties upon selling prices, so it will be interesting to follow the course of potassium chlorate quotations during the coming months."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

"The other day Senator Borah, in an address before the Izaak Walton League, cautioned the country to be on its guard against the development of bureaucracy in America. We do not question that the intent behind the Forest Service is public-spirited and benevolent; but we think the indications are clear, from the documents before us, that the spirit and temper of the Forest Service is in danger of becoming bureaucratic. One of the reasons why the merit system in the Civil Service has had a hard road to travel in this country is the popular fear of bureaucracy. Permanency of place, made secure by appointment after competitive examination, makes possible the creation of bureaus that are removed from the force of public opinion and the reach of public criticism. Those who believe in the merit system, as we do, must make sure that it does not identify itself with a bureaucratic theory. The worst enemies of a true merit system are those who, once securely lodged in the Civil Service, show contempt or disregard for public criticism." (From an editorial in The Outlook, Apr. 15.)

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 15: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.05 for the top and $12.65 to $13 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.40; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 to $11.50; feeder steers $5.50 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $11.50; fat lambs $13.75 to $15.75; feeding lambs $14 to $15.25; yearlings $10 to $12.75 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose declined at $6 to $6.50 per barrel in New York and Philadelphia, mostly $7.25 to $7.50 elsewhere; $5 f.o.b. Hastings. New York Baldwin apples firm at $6.50 to $7.00 per barrel, top of $7.50 in Baltimore. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions declined 75¢ to $1.00 closing at $2 to $2.50 per crate, commercial pack in eastern markets; $1.65 to $1.90 for U.S. No. 1 grade in Chicago; $1.10 to $1.15 f.o.b. Laredo. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage weaker ranging $1.75 to $2.50 per barrel crate. Florida fancy tomatoes unsettled, best stock bringing $6 to $7 per six basket carrier. Louisiana Klondike strawberries firm at $5.50 to $6.25 per 24 pint crate in consuming centers; $5.10 to $5.32 f.o.b. Hammond.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 42 1/2¢; Boston 45¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted April 15: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.48 to $1.79. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.87; Kansas City $1.67. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.59; Kansas City $1.54 to $1.67. No. 2 mixed corn Chicago $1.08; No. 3 mixed corn 96 to 98¢. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.09 to $1.12 1/4; Minneapolis $1.00 to $1.02; St. Louis $1.06. No. 4 white corn Chicago $1.04 1/2 to $1.05. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 to 43 1/2¢; Minneapolis 39 to 39 1/2¢; St. Louis 46 to 47¢; Kansas City 47 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 34 points, closing at 24.58¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 39 points, closing at 24.40¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 15	Apr. 14	Apr. 15, 1924
20 Industrials	121.11	121.54	90.52
20 R R. stocks	95.91	95.46	80.74

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 16.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 15 Section 1 April 17, 1925

MUSCLE SHOALS POWER

The press to-day states that despite the failure of Congress at the last session to pass a bill providing for the disposal of hydro-electric current generated at Muscle Shoals, plans have been made by the War Department to begin the operation of four units of the plant, capable of producing 100,000 horsepower, by January 1, unless objection should be made by the commission appointed by President Coolidge to recommend permanent legislation governing the distribution of power in the Tennessee River. The first hydro-electric unit at Muscle Shoals will be completed between July 1 and August 1, and the power will be placed at the disposal of the bidders, with the understanding that the contract for its distribution shall be awarded to one individual or corporation. Work is rapidly progressing on three other units, which will be ready for operation by the new year. The Muscle Shoals Commission, of which former Representative John A. Mackenzie of Illinois is chairman, was informed in a letter written April 16 by Acting Secretary Davis of the War Department that upon the completion of the first unit it will be necessary to put it in operation at once to test out the machinery and make necessary adjustments.

FOREIGN WOOLS

A Boston dispatch to the press of April 17 states that a very large volume of Australian, Tasmanian, New Zealand and River Plate wool has arrived in Boston lately. Coming on such a market as has prevailed since the first of the year, the problem of handling it all is becoming a serious one. It will need something like concerted action in the trade to prevent a further slump on prices. Receipts of foreign wool went up to 8,827,000 pounds this week. Shipments out of Boston by rail were 2,157,000 pounds, which is about the same as in the previous week. Boston is so overstocked with foreign wool that it makes the pricing of the new domestic clips difficult. Shearing is now at hand and the Boston market is fully 20 cents lower to-day than the price at which the bulk of the contracts were closed. It is said, however, that the Boston houses will live up to all their contracts.

COTTON PRICES AND COTTON GOODS

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 16 says: "Unofficial advice comes from Washington that Government authorities are disposed to concede the request made by the recent convention of cotton manufacturers of New Orleans for an inquiry into the relation of prices of cotton goods and raw cotton. Both branches of trade are to-day more and more interested in this problem of relationship, and each is increasingly disposed to rely upon the other. This question of cost of production is one that might well have been investigated a long time ago by the Tariff Commission. A rather elaborate investigation of it was made by the old Tariff Board, which was able to furnish some rather interesting data with regard to relative costs and value at the different stages of production as cotton went through the mill. The old Tariff Board failed dismally in getting any information about foreign costs of production, but the domestic side of its studies was more successful and might well have been developed before now. It is not likely that either the Tariff Commission or any similar body will succeed in getting actual details concerning the precise relationship existing between the raw and manufactured product in such a way as to lay down any principle of constant connection between them."

Section 2

American Agriculture To-day : Secretary Jardine is the author of an extensive article entitled "The Farmer, His Fellow Farmers, and Other Folks," in The Country Gentleman for April 18. In this the Secretary says: "There are more than 6,000,000 farms in the United States and there is no likelihood of their being tied together into one large corporation or syndicate, or of the Government's taking over any considerable part of their work. Were farming to lose its independence, were the individual farmer to rely less and less upon his own initiative, farming would gradually lose its attractiveness for the type of man who now lives upon the farm and who for generations has weathered the storms, enjoyed the bright spots and made possible the generally forward march of American agriculture. At the same time it must be remembered that no business is so simple as it was even a generation ago. Invention, transportation, international relations and other factors have entered in to make all modern industry highly complex. To this farming is no exception. The farmer can not act individually in the same way as did his forbear to whom the farm was a self-sustaining unit. It is true that to-day the average farmer would be better off if he produced on his farm more of the things he needs, but it is absurd to think of going back now to the primitive economic and social situation of a hundred years ago. With this growing complexity in modern life, economic changes occur at frequent intervals and often affect the fortunes of individuals and even of groups. Periods of high prices alternate with periods of low prices. These swings in the business cycle are magnified greatly by wars. In periods of pronounced economic change, prices are thrown out of their normal relationship and both individuals and groups may suffer as a result. Recent experience has shown how deeply agriculture can be affected by shifting price levels. In fact, farmers of all groups are probably in the weakest position quickly to make adjustments in their business and protect themselves when low prices and hard times suddenly come. In troublous times the first remedy thought of by the average American citizen is a new law. It is not surprising, therefore, that, with the perpendicular drop in the prices of farm products and the depression of the farming industry that followed, farmers should have turned to Congress to solve their problems. They had turned to political agencies before without striking success, as during the Populist uprising in the nineties of the last century, and if they had gone back into the agricultural history of ancient peoples they would have found that extreme legal measures had, in Egypt, in Greece, in China and elsewhere, been attempted and subsequently abandoned in the effort to give relief to farm conditions. ...

"Under emergency circumstances the Government should be ready to extend practicable relief to any suffering class. It is fundamental, however, that relief measures be of a purely temporary nature, and that they do not contain the germ of more ultimate harm than positive good. Price fixing, direct or indirect, belongs to the class of laws which are economically unsound and to which history, the sober, written record of people's experience and views, will offer no support. ... Of much greater importance to the permanent welfare of the farmer, however, are the Government measures and activities that provide him equality of opportunity and help stabilize economic conditions. The Government furnishes information which farmers may use as a guide in adjusting their business to changing conditions. Through the establishment of Federal land banks and Federal intermediate credit banks it has sought to give the farmer

credit facilities that would be as responsive to his needs as those now serving industry. ... Future legislation, if it is to inure to the lasting benefit of the farmer, must look toward the same ideal. Something should be done, for example, to strengthen the banking system in some sections of the country, and to bring about a more unified credit system. This would benefit farmers as well as business men. Our freight rate structure should be overhauled and unreasonable rate discriminations ironed out. The burdens of taxation which now weigh too heavily on farmers in many regions should be more fairly distributed on all taxpayers. In these and other matters, Federal, State and local governments should cooperate. But in the final analysis, the success which farmers attain will depend in large measure upon their own individual and collective efforts. The Government may smoothen the way, but it cannot protect the farmer against uncontrollable forces or his own injudicious action. It may not be possible to iron out the peaks and valleys in the business cycle, yet much may be done by farmers themselves to reduce the harmful effects of depressions. ...

"A profitable and satisfying agriculture, however, can not be built unless there is wholehearted and effective cooperation among farmers. Every effort, therefore, should be made by Congress and other public and private agencies to direct the cooperative movement along sound and stable lines. Cooperation among farmers in this country is still in its infancy and the necessary safeguards should be provided to insure its success. Every other business in America is organized, much of it minutely organized. Organizations must be met by orgnaization, to equalize competitive conditions. The two biggest losses which the farmer sustains are in uneconomic production and in uneconomic marketing. Uneconomic production the individual farmer can remedy largely on his own farm. Uneconomic marketing is a matter to be handled by farmers in groups. The individual farmer must cooperate with his fellow farmers. Efficient production is essential to efficient marketing. The success of cooperative marketing organizations, in fact, may hinge in no small measure upon their ability to help regulate and standardize the production of farm products, and to bring about the most efficient methods of production. ... It is not enough, however, for the farmer to cooperate only with other farmers. The farmer as an individual can not live unto himself nor can farming as an occupation live unto itself. Civilization has become too complex to permit any industry or institution to stand alone. Farming is inextricably interwoven with other industries, with other lines of business. The essential ramifications of the American farming industry extend into scores of countries and into hundreds of fields of industry. It must be recognized by the farmer on the one hand and by the city dweller on the other that neither can exist by himself. The enlightened business men of the country have already shown a disposition to meet the farmer more than halfway in this respect. For example, the American Bankers' Association urges each State bankers' association to organize an agricultural committee and through such a group tie itself up with the agricultural college the State board of agriculture, the agricultural press and the various farm organizations, in promoting a sound type of agriculture by putting financial resources behind it. ... The farmer should likewise be ready to meet the honest, progressive, cooperative business men of the town. He should realize that as there is benefit to him when he cooperates with other farmers, so likewise he will derive help from cooperating

with his fellow business man who happens to live in a town or a city rather than on a farm. No group in the population has a monopoly of the sound thinking, the unity of purpose, or the business judgment essential to progress. ..."

British Agriculture and Industry

A London dispatch to the press of April 16 says: "Great Britain can not hope to regain her former position as the supreme industrial nation of the world unless her people turn to agriculture as a profitable pursuit through which industry may be partly supported, says Professor Hewins, director of the London School of Economics, in a review of recent trade statistics. 'If it ever was possible to restore Great Britain's industrial supremacy,' says Professor Hewins, 'too much time has now elapsed to permit hope that a premier position in manufactures can be regained. If the British is ever again to take first place among the commercial nations of the world that end can be attained only through closer relationships between Great Britain and the Dominions.' Professor Hewins emphasizes the constant increase in imports of foodstuffs, accompanied by a great diminution in the population of farming districts in the British Isles as important and discouraging factors in the situation. He sees in these developments continuous decline in the home market for British manufactures. He believes also that the diminution in home buying power puts the British manufacturer at a disadvantage in competing with foreign industrialists for world markets. 'A flourishing agricultural population is the surest foundation for a successful industrial structure,' says Professor Hewins. 'In the past no principle has been more firmly held by British statesmen than that there should be a balance between agriculture and industry so that there should be s sufficient portion of the population employed in agriculture to provide a home market for industrial products.'"

Canadian Wheat Quality

An Ottawa dispatch to the press of April 16 states that 95 per cent, 250,096,000 bushels of the estimated Canadian wheat crop of 1924, totaling 262,097,000 bushels, is reported by crop correspondents as having proved to be of merchantable quality, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics announced April 15. Last year's corresponding figures were 96 per cent, or 454,804,000 bushels out of 474,199,000 bushels.

Corporation Farming

An editorial in Wallace's Farmer for April 3 says: "The New York Times looks forward rather eagerly to the spread of corporation farming. The activities of Thos. D. Campbell, of Montana, are held up for admiration. His extensive use of tractors and modern harvest machinery has made it possible to produce wheat with the minimum of man labor and the fact that he farms thousands of acres of land distributes his risk so that he is not likely to be seriously harmed by adverse weather on all of his land at the same time. The New York Times says the farmer of to-day is neither a capitalist, nor a workman, nor a manager, but is 'a sort of vestigial remains in the highly developed industrial organism of to-day.' There is, of course, a lot of truth in the diagnosis of the Times, but we venture the observation that it will be a sad day for the United States when corporation farming is substituted for family farming. It may be that corporation farming will produce a bushel of wheat and a hundred pounds of pork at less outlay of man labor than will family farming. But will it produce those human qualities which we value most highly? Frank-

ly, we are suspicious of where our so-called 'industrial progress' is taking us. We are wondering continually what our efficiency is finally going to buy us in terms of human satisfaction. It is possible to pay too high a price for efficiency. We incline to the view that corporation farming will cost in terms of human satisfaction more than it is worth in terms of efficiency."

Cotton

The Wall Street Journal for April 16 says: "Domestic consumption of cotton in March amounted to 582,674 bales of lint, 58,845 of linters and exports were 734,697 bales. Taken in connection with the total movement since the beginning of the crop season these figures show a steady flow of cotton to market. They confirm earlier predictions of a slender carryover in spite of the large crop of last year. This is a matter of vital consequence to those who purchase cotton for use in the following season. In the eight-month period between August 1,1924, and March 31, 1925, domestic mills consumed a total of 4,479,963 bales of lint and linters. In the same period the total exports were 6,967,-286 bales. The aggregate of the mill consumption and exports in this period is 11,680,916 bales of lint and linters. As the total supply of American cotton of all kinds in the United States was a little over 15,000,000 bales it can be seen that the demand for the three months remaining of this crop year will reduce the supply to slender proportions. Cotton can not be consumed down to the last bale, but mills must carry some in stock. Ports and other public storage places must also hold at least a limited quantity. These stocks now total about 3,880,000 bales, where a month ago they were 5,460,000. Whatever else comes to them must be from the remainder of the crop of 1924 and the small carryover of last year. The into-sight movement up to April 10 for this crop was 13,664,500 bales. Thus, in nine and one-half months the end of the crop of 1924 is in sight. There is something also to think about in the so-called heavy exports. These are heavy only by comparison with recent years. Before the war they would have been considered small. But being 50 per cent larger than a year ago they are in comparison significantly large. This increase does not mean that foreign consumers are merely filling up their empty bins. It means that more cotton is going into actual consumption. What will the situation be in the near future when a steadily increasing purchasing power again brings Europe's demand somewhat near the pre-war times? Coming down to the immediate present the industry is faced with the certainty of a small carryover at the end of this season, coupled with the probability of a good demand for export cotton. The new crop, therefore, will be one of unusual moment. Aside from the drought in Texas, the planting season now appears favorable and it is probable that the early summer promise of the crop will be unusually good. Should this prove to be true and have the usual effect upon the market those who consume cotton may well remember the proverb of the early bird."

Foreign Trade

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 15 says: "European developments are having a good deal more effect upon the course of American business than most of us are willing to admit. Doubt that has arisen in many minds in this country is not the product merely of such crises as that which is much in evidence in Europe at the present moment. Students of the trade balances of most European countries, particularly those to whom we have advanced large funds,

have been finding plenty to give them worry. In short, the fact is becoming clearer and clearer with each passing day that, despite the highly lauded Dawes report and the subsequent accomodations reached more or less in conformity with that report, the European political and economic tangle remains essentially unsolved. Peoples resident in these countries have acquired considerable supplies of raw materials and some oth goods, largely upon borrowed money, and some of them have been able for the time being at all events to stabilize their currencies. But export markets upon which the whole structure must rest are not developing as had been hoped, and as in the case of France continued fiscal troubles have brought dire need of further 'stabilization' of currency at a time when former lenders are growing distinctly wary. Meantime American producers are not feeling the large and abiding demand even for our raw materials and agricultural products that a good many hopeful souls had expected and freely predicted. ... Demand is slackening and promises to diminish still further if things go along as they now appear likely to go. The concrete evidence of this change which is taking place is to be seen in price recessions which in one form or another have come in practically all the more important commodities which bulk large in international trade."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 16: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.10 for the top and $12.80 to $13.05 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.60 to $11.25; feeder steers $5.30 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.25 to $11.50; fat lambs $13.25 to $15.25; feeding lambs $13.75 to $15; yearlings $9.50 to $12.25; fat ewes $6 to $9.25.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes declined sharply in New York and Philadelphia to $5.50 to $6 per bbl.; mostly $7 to $7.25 in other markets; $4.50 f.o.b. Hastings. New York sacked Round Whites lower at $1 to $1.15 per 100 lbs. in eastern cities. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage tends lower, ranging $1.75 to $2.25 per bbl. crate. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions weakened to $1.75 to $2.25 per crate, commercial pack, in eastern markets; $1.10 to $1.15 f.o.b. Laredo. Florida fancy tomatoes irregular at $6 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier, original pack, for best stock, top of $9 for repacked in Pittsburgh.

Grain prices quoted April 16: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.39 to $1.71. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.78 to $1.87; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.70. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.52; Kansas City $1.47 to $1.60. No. 2 mixed corn Chicago $1.06; Kansas City 99¢ to $1.01; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis 92 to 94¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.10 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.07 1/4 to $1.09 1/4; Minneapolis 96 to 98¢; St.Louis $1.08. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.05 to $1.07 1/2; No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.03 to $1.08 1/2. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 1/2 to 42 3/4¢; Minneapolis 37 3/8 to 38 1/8¢; St.Louis 46 to 46 1/2¢; Kansas City 47¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: Philadelphia 45¢; New York 44¢; Chicago 43¢.

Closing prices at Wisconsin Primary cheese markets April 15: Daisies 22 1/2¢; Longhorns 22 3/4¢; Square Prints 23¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 14 points, closing at 24.44¢ per lb.; New York May future contracts declined 20 points, closing at 24.20¢. (Prepared by Bu.Agr.Econ)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

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WHEAT SITUATION Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, says to-day: "Nat. C. Murray, formerly chief statistician of the Department of Agriculture, has just completed a midmonth survey of the winter-wheat situation, and is now in the Northwest examining conditions in the spring-wheat belt. His opinion had much to do with the strength of wheat yesterday. It was decidedly bullish, so far as the wheat market is concerned, but somewhat to the contrary from the viewpoint of general business, for bad crops do not promote business prosperity. Mr. Murray finds that 20 per cent of the winter wheat planted has been abandoned. Some of the extremes of winter and drought damage are shown by an abandonment of 47 per cent in Texas, 60 per cent in Oregon and 80 per cent in Washington. The Northwest wheat crop is more important than is generally conceded. One favorable factor is that about 1,500,000 acres of abandoned winter wheat in the Pacific Northwest is being reseeded in spring wheat, and for that the prospect is presently promising. ..."

FRENCH FINANCES Emile Daeschner, the French Ambassador to the United States, told a gathering of financiers and bankers at the Bond Club, New York, yesterday that France had extricated herself from financial difficulties before and that her ability to recoup had not been impaired by her having to carry the burden of postwar reconstruction single-handed. He made no mention of the French debt, but his discussion of French finances, taxation and related problems before bankers who have been following the course of political and financial events in France the last few weeks was considered an interesting departure for a diplomatic envoy. (N.Y. Times, Apr. 18)

PRICES While wholesale prices of many commodities averaged lower in March than in February, the general level was slightly higher, according to information gathered in representative markets by the United States Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, which includes 404 commodities or price series, registered 161.0 for March compared with 160.6 for the preceding month. Of the 404 commodities or price series for which comparable data for February and March were collected, increases were shown in 98 instances and decreases in 156 instances. In 150 instances no change in price was reported. In foods alone there were 44 increases, 38 decreases, and 26 cases of no change from the preceding month. (Dept. of Labor press statement, Apr. 17.)

TARIFF COMPLICATIONS Prospects of a tariff war between the United States and European countries were forecast in official circles April 16 as a probable outcome of the disinclination being evidenced by foreign governments to grant diplomatic status to agents of the customs service of the Treasury stationed abroad. Other important European powers, it develops, share the views of Switzerland, which country has already threatened to disallow diplomatic status to Treasury agents which Congress has authorized the State Department to accord to them. (Preds, Apr. 17.)

Section 2

Agricultural College Education

"What is the Farm College For?" is the title of an article by E. H. Taylor in The Country Gentleman for April 18. This says: "The dean of one of the best known agricultural colleges, troubled by the decline in enrollment general among these colleges, asked his faculty members what they thought should be done about it. Far from settling anything, the replies showed a wide difference in opinion. One of them raised this counter-question: 'Before trying to do anything, shouldn't we ask ourselves in all seriousness just what are the purposes and functions of the agricultural colleges?' In other words, what are the agricultural colleges for, and what is their job? This question is bound up with the two main problems of the agricultural colleges -- how to restore the lost enrollment in their farm courses, and how to adjust their service to present conditions and needs. It is so important that President R. A. Pearson, of the Association of Land Grant Colleges, recommended at their last annual meeting that a thorough study be made of the 'scope and work' of these institutions. ... Among the replies he received was this one: 'We are admirably fitted for training scientific research men and teachers. We seem to be giving the kind of instruction needed for another very large group who are going into various technical, commercial and agricultural service lines. This, though, seems to be the result of lucky chance rather than design on our part. We should study the needs of this group and see if we can not better accommodate them. For the third group -- those who are going back to the farm -- we are not well enough equipped on the side of their most pressing present-day problems. We must find a way of meeting these problems, which are mainly social and economic, or see this group continue to dwindle.' This analysis, however correctly or not it states the situation, at least sets out the angles of the problem. The Morrill act, establishing the colleges, provided that 'the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies..... to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts..... in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.' The 'several pursuits and professions of life' have grown into an almost countless number in the present complex organization of life. And the agricultural colleges have come to serve more and more of them. Graduates of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture have gone into 146 different lines of activity; those of Iowa State College into more than 120. Seventy per cent of all the agricultural graduates of Massachusetts Agricultural College have gone into something else than practical farming; 61 per cent of those of Purdue. It is a rare institution than can show better than 40 per cent engaged in farming.

"The fact that so many of these agriculturally trained men do not go back to the farm is often deplored. But there is another side to it. 'These positions exist and somebody has to fill them,' declared Dean C. F. Curtiss, of Iowa State College of Agriculture. 'They all have to do in one way or another with the interests and welfare of farming. It's better to have them filled by men well trained in agriculture and sympathetic toward it. Somebody besides farmers should know about agriculture, or its needs will be even less understood than they are now.' Anyway, whether the absorption of agricultural graduates into these other lines is deplorable or not it is a reality that has to be accepted. It is a part of the agricultural college's job. But it complicates the job and leads to such criticisms as these, all made by agricultural-college

men: That the college courses are top-heavy on the scientific side. That the courses are not broad enough to fit men for all these varying occupations. That, since most of these lines of work outside of teaching and research are of a business nature, more of a business slant needs to be given to the training offered by the colleges.

"A noteworthy opinion was brought in by the aforementioned quiz of faculty members by a certain dean: 'The regular and usual thing is to cram the first two or three years full of the so-called fundamental sciences,' declared this critic of our agricultural colleges. 'This is no doubt the right way to develop scientists. It is manifestly not the right way to prepare men adequately for agriculture or the many things related to it.' And Bradford Knapp, president of Oklahoma A. & M. College, said: 'In some of the agricultural courses I feel there has been too much "getting away from" agriculture. In other words, the science is taught without the farm application. I believe the dollars-and-cents relation to farming ought to be kept almost always uppermost in teaching agricultural subjects.'

"It will not do to overlook the other side, though. One prominent agricultural scientist said in this regard: 'Take one product of scientific research, the Babcock Test for example, and its value to farming in general is probably greater than would be rendered by a dozen graduating classes that returned to the farm or went into business.' In brief, the college can not afford to neglect any of its lines of service. The problem is to adjust its work so that all can be adequately accommodated. ..."

The article includes further opinions by President Elliott of Purdue, Dean Curtiss of Iowa State College, Dean Cooper of Kentucky College of Agriculture, President Burruss of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, President Farrell of Kansas State Agricultural College, Dean Willson of Tennessee College of Agriculture and others.

Alaska's Outlook George Edward Lewis, of Skagway, speaking in New York April 15 of Alaskan conditions, said: "The present conditions in Alaska are very good, in fact, never so hopeful since 1898. The railroad craze has settled down to permanency -- the railroad is a fact and a great boon to the citizens of Alaska, as well as to those of the United States wishing to travel in the Territory. The oil at Cold Bay is a certainty now; the coal mines of Healy River are, without doubt, the greatest coal bed north of the Pennsylvania fields, and a dozen other mines are in operation. A $5,000,000 dredging enterprise begins early in May in the region of Fairbanks. Perhaps 200 similar mines, that have long been closed, will begin to operate this spring. The salmon canneries, herring stations and halibut fishing produced this fiscal year more than $50,000,000. The reindeer industry is growing in a marvelous manner; ninety-eight head of deer range from Cook Inlet to Point Barrow, comprising approximately 300,000 deer. The woodland caribou run in hordes up into the millions, perhaps as many as there were buffalo on the plains in 1860. The interior fishing is abundant. Perhaps one of the most outstanding industries in Alaska to-day with a future is fox farming and mink ranching. The White Pass & Yukon Railroad has just completed the first dam across the Yukon. This dam is an engineering masterpiece. The object is to overflow upper and lower Lake La Barge, to overflow the waters of the great tidal wave to crush down and carry out

the ice, so navigation to Dawson may begin six weeks earlier." (N.Y. Times, Apr. 16.)

Australian Agricultural Research

The Waite Agricultural Research Institute has been established by the University of Adelaide for the purpose of conducting investigational and research work in agriculture. The establishment of the institute was rendered possible by the magnificent gift of the late Mr. Peter Waite, a sheep farmer of South Australia who bequeathed 100,000 pounds to the University of Adelaide for agricultural research. The Government of South Australia has supplemented the bequest by an appropriation equal to the annual value of the endowment, namely, 5,000 pounds per annum. The institute is located at Glen Osmond, 3½ miles from Adelaide on an area of 300 acres of good agricultural land. With the funds available it is proposed to conduct investigational work in agronomy, agricultural chemistry, plant pathology and plant genetics. (Jour. of Min. of Agric., London, April.)

Boys' and Girls' Clubs in Britain

An editorial in The (British) Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture for April says: "The ministry has taken over the supervision of the Young Farmers' Club movement, and has appointed an inspector, who, assisted by the woman inspector, will endeavor to organize and co-ordinate the activities of the clubs and to give such supplementary aid as may be sought by local bodies who desire to extend the movement. The ministry's divisional inspectors will also lend their aid to facilitate the provision of lectures and the dissemination of information by local authorities and educational institutions. ... The ministry will not make grants or loans to start the clubs, but hopes that promoters will come forward and provide the capital required locally. Clubs ought to be self-supporting at the end of the first year. Hitherto no difficulty has arisen in regard to the question of capital. There will be a central policy directed from the ministry for the guidance of the clubs, but of sufficient elasticity to meet local conditions. It will be the policy of the ministry to invite the active cooperation of local education authorities, and the Board of Education is in sympathy with the aims of the movement. The National Farmers' Union and the National Federation of Women's Institutes have both promised to assist. For the provision of technical advice and of occasional lectures it is hoped that the clubs may look to the county agricultural staffs and to the provincial colleges. The hearty cooperation of the boys' and girls' club movement in the Dominions and the United States is assured, and international cattle judging contests have been arranged. Reference was made to the public-spirited work of companies such as the United Dairies and Milkal Limited, whose directors have done much to promote and foster the movement. The work of the ministry will be largely organization, and interesting local people in the project. Interest in the young farmers' clubs is rapidly growing throughout the country, judging by the large number of inquiries addressed to the ministry. No doubt club work will be a prominent feature of the educational system in every county, as it is likely to introduce boys and girls to new or improved agricultural methods at a receptive age and to awaken in them a readiness to test and adopt new ideas. In their time the young people will influence to some extent the outlook, and even the practice, of older people with whom they come into close contact. The movement is almost certain to

lead more boys and girls to take advantage of the scheme of agricultural education provided by local authorities through organized courses of instruction. ... The experience of the United States of America, Canada and New Zealand is that this movement is instrumental in making better citizens, better homes, and in helping to promote and maintain rural life on a sound and economic basis."

Canadian Wheat

A Montreal dispatch to the press of April 17 reports that commenting on the recent statement before the agricultural council of the House of Commons, that the production of Garnet wheat may possibly in the near future replace the famous Marquis staple, the American Press Bureau of the Canadian Pacific Railway says: "It is difficult to grasp the full significance of the claim that the Garnet staple has capabilities of high production in drought and ripens earlier than Marquis, thereby escaping the dangers of rust and frost, and that it will extend the wheat belt much farther north than it now is. ..."

Farm Pupil Exchange in Europe

The (British) Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture for April says: "Last year the Ministry arranged, through the Agricultural Commissioner of the Danish Government, for a limited number of young agriculturists from this country who were desirous of securing practical experience of Danish agriculture, to be placed for work on farms in Denmark. Similarly, arrangements were made for an equal number of young agriculturists from Denmark to be placed on farms in this country. Approved applicants were required to pay their own traveling expenses to and from their destination, and to undertake regular work on a farm, for a period of from three to six months, in return for free board and lodging. No money was payable to them. On the whole the scheme worked satisfactorily, and it has therefore been decided to continue it, on the same lines, during 1925. The National Farmers' Union is giving assistance in the selection of farms where Danish agriculturists may be received, and in securing suitable British applicants for placing on Danish farms. Applications from young agriculturists in this country may be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, and will be transmitted to the Danish Agricultural Commissioner."

Grocers' Resolutions

The New York State Wholesale Grocers' Association, at the close of its annual convention April 16, adopted resolutions as follows: "Affirming the association's fundamental policy of cooperation in the enforcement and administration of food laws of the States on the basis of uniformity with Federal law. Commending the United States Chamber of Commerce for its efforts in improving distributive functioning and pledging to Chairman Whitmarsh of the committee the association's aid and cooperation. Commending Secretary Hoover for his constant efforts to promote effective and lawful trade association influence. Reiterating the association's condemnation of unfair and pernicious trade practices and indorsing the new policy of the Federal Trade Commission with reference to the handling of complaints, with less annoyance to legitimate business. Pledging cooperation in the 'Phone for Food' campaign and thanking Chairman John J. Miller of the National Wholesale Grocers' committee on sales promotion for his efforts in evolving the plan."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 17: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes $1 to $2 lower at $6 to $7 per barrel in leading markets; mostly $4.50 f.o.b. Hastings. New York sacked Round Whites tend lower at 95¢ to $1.15 per 100 pounds. Florida fancy tomatoes, original pack weakened at $5.50 to $6.50 per six basket carrier in eastern markets. Louisiana Klondike strawberries ranged slightly higher at $5.50 to $6.00 per 24-pint crate in midwestern cities; $4.75 to $5.17 1/2 f.o.b. Hammond.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.05 for the top and $12,70 to $12.95 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $11.25; feeder steers $5.50 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7.25 to $11.50; fat lambs $13.65 to $15.25 and feeding lambs $13.25 to $14.50.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44 1/2¢; Chicago 43 1/2¢; Philadelphia 45 1/2¢; Boston 45¢.

Grain prices quoted April 17: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 1/2 to $1.77 1/2. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.85; Kansas City $1.53. No. 4 red winter Chicago $1.62 1/2. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.51; Kansas City $1.46 to $1.53. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 98 1/2 to $1; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.01 1/2 to $1.03 1/2; Minneapolis 97 to 99¢. No. 2 yellow corn Kansas City $1.07. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.04 1/4 to $1.07 1/2; Minneapolis $1 to $1.02. St. Louis $1.03 1/2 to $1.05 1/2. No. 3 white corn St. Louis $1.05 to $1.06; No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.06. No. 3 white oats Chicago 41 to 43¢; Minneapolis 39 1/8 to 39 5/8¢; St. Louis 45 1/4 to 46¢; Kansas City 47 to 47 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 51 points, closing at 24.95¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 50 points, closing at 24.70¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 17	Apr. 16	Apr. 17, 1924
20 Industrials	121.41	120.67	91.34
20 R.R. stocks	96.59	96.13	81.64

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 18)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 17 Section 1 April 20, 1925.

THE SECRETARY "Jardine, Jardinier," is the title of an editorial in the New York Times of April 19, which says: "The new Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Jardine, has been variously characterized by those who have urged his qualifications for his new post. He is a plain farmer to one and an educator to another; he is both an economist and a Rotarian; he was a 'cow puncher' and he is a golfer. But one of the professors in the Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kan., of which Mr. Jardine was President for thirteen years, says that science, even just for science's sake, has hardly had anywhere a more keenly 'open-minded and generous supporter' than this many-sided man. In witness of this, he cites the Secretary's willingness to give aid to investigations of matters so purely scientific as the fauna of the alimentary tracts of termites or the physices involved in a 'musical tone.' And yet this pure science paragon was not averse to giving like support to investigations that promised valuable economic results. Only one further high attribute is to be desired, and perhaps he has even that. It is best suggested by Sir Daniel Hall of England in an address before the Graduate School of the department over which Mr. Jardine now presides: 'I have a vivid recollection years ago of a little piece of swampy meadow, half encircledby a brook, which after other wanderings found its way into the Thames. There was a patch of reeds and willows, an old salley garden, where the reed warbler swung her nest and flitted through the tangled herbage. The wet meadow itself was starred over in August with Grass of Parnassus.*** Well, the efficient man came along, saw his opportunity, grubbed up the willows and laid out the meadow in watercress beds. He is a benefactor of his kind and has caused millions of blades of an edible kind to grow where there was none before; but I have a sore spot in my heart for the vanished warblers and the lost Grass of Parnassus. I fear, however, that the pursuit of efficiency is one of those contradictory elements in man's make-up that won't let him rest, that is always urging him against his will toward further attainment. What a dreary prospect if it only results in adding an ever greater and greater population to a world always working harder and harder! Is there any way out of this impasse? I can only suggest the kindly force of that other element in the texture of men's minds, the passion for artistic expression.' It is suspected that one whose name has in it the memory of a French garden has also this atavistic penchant."

GRAIN TRADERS MAY BE TAXED A Springfield, Ill., dispatch to the press of April 20 says: "The State Senate is expected to adopt a plan this week to take $5,000,000 a year from persons who speculate on the Chicago Board of Trade and give it to the public schools of the State. The scheme was devised by Senator Kessinger of Aurora and has been approved by the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Briefly, it provides a tax of one-thirty-second part of a cent for each bushel of grain sold for future delivery. It exempts farmers who sell grain they have grown or other persons who actually have wheat for a manufacturing purpose. The purpose of the bill is to tax those who speculate on margin. The amount of grain sold for future delivery on the Board of Trade last year was wheat, 9,597,315,000 bushels; corn, 5,759,327-,000; oats, 1,766,940,000, and rye, 703,488,000, and a total of 17,827,070,000. The total for the same grains in 1923 was 13,930,551,000 bushels."

Section 2

Airplane Production

America is on the verge of greatly increased aircraft production, with airplanes in daily use for personal purposes and landing fields everywhere, says Edsel B. Ford in an article in the May number of The Nation's Business Magazine. Mr. Ford says it is conceivable that the Ford Motor Company will some day be engaged in the quantity production of aircraft, if not of air sedans and air transports, at least of the motors for them.

Canada's Immigration Policy

A new plan to encourage northern Europeans to make their homes in Canada is offered by Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways, in the annual report of the road for 1924. During the past year, it is said, efforts have been made to obtain land settlers not only from the British Isles but from other European countries, particularly Norway, Sweden, Holland and Denmark. Additional branch agencies have been opened at Oslo, Copenhagen and Rotterdam. Educational courses in agriculture were inaugurated with the object of enabling prospective settlers to become familiar with agricultural methods in Canada before immigrating. (Press April 17.)

"With the Prairie Farmer in Canada" is the author of an extensive article by T. Kerr Ritchie in the Nineteenth Century and After for April. It says: "..... The Canadian Pacific Railway is the largest landowner in Western Canada, and again we come on the same commercial spirit intent on earning dividends. The benefits the Canadian Pacific Railway has conferred on Western Canada are enormous. If it were not for its business-like pioneer efforts we might almost say Western Canada would still be largely No Man's Land. But that does not prevent the prairie farmer from sometimes thinking he pays rather high for these benefits. This railway company has undertaken irrigation and colonization schemes, through a subsidiary company, in connection with millions of acres granted to it by the Dominion Government. Still the prairie farmer--on the prairie--does not always see eye to eye with the European or other holders of the stock in this company. The fact is that land monopoly by any company or series of companies is not a healthy factor in promoting the welfare of a new country. The capital value of land becomes unduly high owing to a monopoly or artificial scarcity. To put it simply, the settler in Western Canada improves his farm. He builds, fences, raises grain, stock, or--musk rats. His land has no real value. The settler makes it valuable by the employment of his labor and his capital. Originally he could find Canadian Pacific Railway land lying around and worth some six dollars per acre. When the settler and his neighbors have matured into farmers and want to buy some more Canadian Pacific Railway land adjoining them the price has gone up to thirty dollars per acre. The prairie farmer may be wrong, but he has an opinion that most of the work he has done on his land has only made it impossible for him to buy Canadian Pacific Railway land--land on which not a hand's turn of work has been done, land from which he was not even allowed to take a few corkscrew poplar trees to build

a sty for his first brood sow. The farmers want to build a school or improve the roads. They pay taxes, and here are those octopus tentacles idly sprawling about paying none, or a miserable minimum. The farmers in a certain district, after inquiring as to the railway freight rates, arrange to grow a certain acreage of potatoes for the early summer market in a neighboring metropolis. Singular to relate, when the time comes to ship the potato crop the railway freight rate has risen to such a dizzy height that the simple farmers have fainting palpitations of the heart, whilst their milk cows or fattening shoats have an unexpected Siwash pot-lach of Best Select Early Rose Solanum Tuberosum. Appeal to the Dominion Railway Rates Commission or the provincial Caesar shorn of power? They might as well petition the British Ministry of Health in favor of their pigs, by this time dying of indigestion. They have no pleasant recollection of an appeal they once made to the Lords of the Privy Council regarding the taxation of these same Canadian Pacific Railway lands. The new immigrant intending to farm finds he has to pay as much for his land as he would in the county of Kent or in Normandy, and he has nothing like the same markets for his products, not to speak of the amenities of an older civilization..... Both the farmer and the immigrant can buy this Canadian Pacific Railway land on easy payments spread over a term of years at 8 per cent. per annum interest. Sometimes they obtain their title-deeds; more often the land falls back to the Canadian Pacific Railway, or a trust company, or a bank, and this 'big business' marches on with its unearned increment..... The profits of the Canadian Pacific Railway were originally, and are largely still, obtained from shipping the prairie farmer's wheat towards the East and transporting the eastern manufacturer's goods into the prairie. The result has been that manufactures languish in Western Canada, while Ontario and its sister-provinces in the East tend to have a monopoly of such manufactures. Is it not to the advantage of Canadian Pacific Railway stockholders that their railway should have a big transit-carrying trade? The prairie farmer complains thathe pays too highly for this sort of arrangement of railway rates--a complaint well founded when he sees that his ice chisel or his socks have journeyed across a continent when they could just as well have been made in his province..... The western prairie provinces do not provide a big enough market for the manufacturer from the East to install any factory worth while? Statistics of the carrying trade of the transcontinental railways do not bear out that contention. There is no outlet for western prairie manufactures beyond the home trade? In connection with the Asiatic market the communications are steadily improving, and transport will some day flow as freely over the Rocky Mountains as through the Great Lakes.

"The Western Canadian prairie farmer was politically in favor of a reciprocal exchange of goods with the United States in years gone by. His views may have been

premature from the point of view of Dominion and Imperial unity. The same reasons hardly exist to-day. As we have seen, the Western prairie farmer is in the situation of a serf to his master, the Eastern industrial centers, favored as they are by railway rates and also by the surrounding tariff wall against the United States. Yet no one who has a shred of respect for the western prairie provinces and believes in their future can at the same time hold that half a continent is going to continue wholly on the lines of being an agricultural country and a dumping ground for eastern and European manufactures. The western provinces must develop on generous lines, otherwise any Imperialistic ideals will, in the long run, fall to the ground..... The United States has reached its limits in the growth of agricultural produce for exportation. The Americans must import such produce. Is their future imported produce not more desirable from across the border than several thousand miles away? It is not a one-sided bargain, because at the present moment, and more and more rapidly as years pass, the United States has as much need of the agricultural produce of the Western Canadian farmer as he has of United States manufactures and manufacturers. This is not a question of the respective merits of Free Trade and Protection; there never have been such mermaids save in the heads of academical theorists. It is wholly a question of Imperial interest....."

Cooperative Marketing

National Stockman and Farmer for April 18 says: "The charge has been made, and will be made again, that cooperative marketing organizations are 'speculating' because they sometimes buy or sell future deliveries on the open or speculative market. Such transactions may appear to be speculation and actually be just the opposite, or insurance. If a cooperative grain or cotton marketing organization knows that it will have a certain number of bushels or pounds to sell, and desires to indure the current future price for it, that may be done by selling for future delivery. The same thing is true if the organization has an order, when it may make sure of price and quantity by buying for future delivery. In either case the speculative market is used for insurance and not for speculation. Every grain or cotton merchant uses the market in this way, and so do most elevators, including cooperative elevators, and they are right in doing so. For when price uncertainty is removed commodities can be handled on the narrowest margins. It is easy to see that without some such system of price insurance dealers could handle grain or cotton on narrow margins, as they would have to take the risk of future changes and would be compelled to make ample allowance therefor in the prices to producers. The speculator makes the market on which this insurance can be bought at any time, and he helps to effect economy when he does it. He must be and is paid for assuming the risk of future prices, but his pay is very small as compared with what he saves for the rest of us in narrowing the necessary margins in the marketing of products."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended April 18: In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is weak to 50¢ lower; veal $1 to $2 lower; lamb weak to $1 lower; pork loins $2 to $4 off.

April 18 prices good grade meats: Beef $15.50 to $17.50; veal $14 to $17; lamb $20 to $24; mutton $15 to $17; light pork loins $26 to $29; heavy loins $19 to $23.

Potatoes closed the week generally weaker. Florida Spaulding Rose $6.25 to $6.50 per barrel in New York and Philadelphi, mostly around $7 in other markets; $4.50 to $4.75 f. o. b. Hastings. Onions dull and weaker. Texas Yellow Bermudas, commercial pack, $1.50 to $2.00 per crate in eastern markets, $1.25 to $1.50 in Chicago; $1. to $1.10 f.o.b. Laredo. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage declined to $1.50 to $2.00 per barrel crate in eastern cities. Tomatoes unsettled. Florida fancy sixes, original pack $5 to $6.50 in city markets, low as $4 to $4.50 in New York. Louisiana Klondike strawberries about steady at $5.50 to $5.75 per 24-pint crate in the Middle West; $4.50 to $5.10 f. o. b. Hammond.

Butter markets unsettled during week, but firm at close. Imports of both Canadian and Argentine butter also contributing factors. Closing prices on 92 score: New York 45¢; Chicago 43 3/4¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 45¢.

Cheese markets dull with trading limited to immediate consumer demand. Wholesale prices at Wisconsin primary markets April 17: Twins 22 3/4¢; Single Daisies 22 1/2¢; Double Daisies 22¢; Longhorns 22 3/4¢; Square Prints 23¢.

Grain market fluctuating, with downward trend. May wheat futures down 12¢ to 15¢ from week ago but new crop futures off only about 8 cents. Export business fair. Corn futures influenced by wheat, closing about 4 cents lower than week ago. Receipts light and feeding demand more active. Oats futures practically higher but cash oats developing weakness.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 69 points during the week, closing at 25.00¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 49 points, closing at 24.65¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 18,	Apr. 17,	Apr.17,192
20 Industrials	122.02	121.41	91.34
20 R. R. stocks	96.64	96.59	81.64

(Wall St. Jour., April 20.)

DAILY DIGEST

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ol. XVII, No. 18 Section 1 April 21, 1925

ELLON ON FEDERAL RESERVE

Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, in an article in the May number of The Nation's Business Magazine, warns the public to be prepared to meet a political attack which may be directed against the Federal Reserve System when the time comes to renew its charters. "The effectiveness of such attack," Mr. Mellon says, "will depend largely upon the articular phase of the business cycle which happens to prevail at the time. If the ountry is then in the midst of a wave of prosperity, the opposition to renewal will e slight. If the country is passing through the low point of the cycle, however, he opposition will be more serious, because the discontent which prevails at such eriods is ever seeking some point of attack, and little discrimination is exercised n the choice of the object. While there is apparently little probability that such pposition would be able to defeat renewal except under unusual circumstances which an not now be foreseen, there always exists the possibility of the impairment of the ystem by changes benefiting this or that group but which might prove to be fundament-l and seriously interfere with the proper functioning of the banks as reserve insti-utions. The system, of course, is still in its youth and lacks the experience of uropean central banks. There will of necessity be changes from time to time and onstant adjustment to the needs of the country, but these changes must be made by he friends of the system and in accordance with sound banking principles, not by its nemies for partisan purposes. The prosperity of the country is dependent upon the mpartial and wise administration of our banking system unhampered by political or artisan domination."

OAD NAMES

The Joint Board on Interstate Highways, composed of State and Federal highway officials, in a meeting at Washington April 20 discussed the feasibility of adopting a uniform system for designating the ain highways of the country so as to avoid duplication of routes. One road in the est, 1,500 miles long, has fifteen names. An effort will be made to retain the prin-ipal names, such as the Lincoln Highway. (Press, Apr. 21.)

RKANSAS TAX-AYERS BREAK ITH GOVERNOR

A Little Rock dispatch to the press to-day states that a breach between a joint legislative committee authorized by the General Assembly to undertake to formulate a plan to relieve landowners of heavy road taxes resulting for the road improvement district system, and Governor Terral, threatens to parcipitate a gubernatorial campaign almost wo years before the next State election. A committee of nine legislators and eight ivilians, provided for by joint legislative resolutions, met at Little Rock yesterday to or-anize and plan its work, although Governor Terral appointed the eight civilian mem-ers of the committee, he appeared before the body and announced that he would not all a special session of the Legislature to consider any recommendations that might e made. Governor Terral asserted that land owners in many districts were having to ay high taxes for roads that never were built and added that it was a question as to hich would be the greater burden, present road taxes or the expenses of a special ession. He expressed opposition to property taxes but urged the committee to com-lete its work to be presented to the Legislature two years from now.

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions Viewed by Bankers

D. H. Otis, director of the agricultural commission of the American Bankers Association, said at the association's council meeting at Augusta, Ga., April 18: "Agriculture is in for better times. The farmer's dollar is on the up-grade. The country is not confronted with large surpluses of agricultural products and spring opens with the brightest prospects that the farmers have had for five years. This does not mean there should be any attempt at large increased production of cash crops. If we over-stimulate production, prices may return to a ruinously low level. There appears to be a thoughtful and sane attitude in favor of a rational system of diversified farming. This, coupled with efforts to improve quality, to standardize the product, and to reduce the cost of production, is going a long way toward putting our farmers on a sound economic basis. As many other lines of business did not feel the depression as quickly as the farming industry, they may likewise not reap the benefits as quickly as they might wish. Nevertheless, we believe recovery is coming."

Botanic Garden Fund Withheld

Comptroller General McCarl April 17 refused to place to the credit of Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Director of Public Buildings and Grounds, the $5,000 appropriated by Congress for an investigation and report on a new location for the Botanic Garden and a landscape plan. McCarl pointed out that the work directed was assigned by the joint committee on the Library with the power to employ the "advice and assistance" of other Government agencies, but that such other agencies must be subordinate and can not have the funds placed at their disposal. Vouchers for the funds must be signed by the finance officer of the Senate and approved by the chairman of the committee, McCarl ruled. (Press, Apr. 19.)

Chilean Nitrates

In a report on Chilean trade, the Bankers Trust Company of New York, in a statement issued April 20, says: "Recent investigation seems to prove that, at any rate for some years to come, Chilean nitrate has little to fear from synthetic productions, and the purchase by an American group of the bulk of the undeveloped nitrate mines offered for sale by the Chilean Government in September, 1924, further strengthens the view that the future prospects and progress of the country are in no way threatened."

Food Prices

The retail food index issued by the United States Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that there was a decrease of nearly three-tenths of one per cent in the retail cost of food in March, 1925, as compared with Febraary, 1925. The index number (1913 = 100.0) was 151.4 in February and 151.1 in March. For the year period March 15, 1924 to March 15, 1925, the increase in all articles of food combined was approximately 5 per cent. For the twelve-year period, March 15, 1913 to March 15, 1925, the increase in all articles of food combined was about 56 per cent. (Labor Dept. press statement, Apr. 18.)

Foreign Trade

The Wall Street Journal for April 18 says: "Exports of merchandise from the United States in March were valued at $452,000,000, comparing with less than $340,000,000 a year ago. Also there was a considerable increase of imports, the total being $385,000,000 against

$321,000,000 in March, 1924. The March figures bring our entire international trade for nine months of the fiscal year to $6,595,600,000, compared with $5,976,000,000 a year ago. Pessimism can not explain away facts like these. Between the cradle and the grave there is no one in the United States whose welfare is not vitally affected by our foreign trade. We are wont to look upon the exports with some satisfaction, but do not regard imports as of equal importance. A large part of the imports is made up of tropical foodstuffs, like tea, coffee, cocoa and fruits, things that we can not produce. We could live without these things -- if you call that 'living.' Another large part of the imports is made up of raw materials, some of which are not produced here at all, and some in limited quantities which can never be increased to meet the demand. Our people buy an increasing number of manufactured goods, even as they are consuming a wider variety of foods, because, thanks to increasing purchasing power, their standards of living are raised. A workingman's family now can, and does, enjoy comforts unavailable to the wealthy a generation or two ago. What would be the effect upon industry if just rubber and tin were taken from us? War itself could hardly be a greater calamity, for industrial life would be paralyzed and a host of people deprived of the means of earning a living. Extend the inquiry and it will be found that there is scarcely an article manufactured in this country that is not in some way tied up with our imports of raw or semi-finished materials. A principal reason for our prosperity and rising standard of living is a national production of about $70,000,000,000. But if we continue to produce we must be able to sell. The more we can sell abroad the more employment there is here for labor and capital. If we buy the raw materials of other countries and make them up into finished goods we are increasing the purchasing power of the country that produced the materials as well as increasing employment here. One effect of this is seen in the increasing quantity of goods other countries are taking from the United States. The figures of exports are the proof of this, and the steady employment of labor at high wages is convincing testimony to the same purpose."

German Financial Ability

Germany is evidently able to produce surplus goods enough to meet the reparations payments called for under the Dawes plan, but means for making the transfer without adverse international results remain to be worked out, William E. Knox, president of the American Bankers Association, declared in a statement at New York, April 18, calling attention to the conference of the International Chamber of Commerce to be held at Brussels in June at which the problem will be taken up.

Immigration

A Berlin dispatch to the press of April 19 states that stabilization of currency has acted as a check on German emigration. During 1923 Germans who left to establish homes in other parts of the world numbered 115,000, while in 1924 the number dropped to 57,000. North America still is the favorite destination of the emigrants.

A Berne dispatch says: "Emigration to America is emptying many an Alpine village and district in the canton of Tienio, Switzerland. In some places only the young and the aged are left, all the working people having gone to the United States, especially California. Out of 66 young men called to the colors to perform their military service in this canton, only five could be found; all the others had emigrated."

International Commerce Meeting

A number of transportation subjects of particular interest at the present time appear on the program for the thirteenth annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, to be held at Washington, May 20, 21 and 22. These questions will be taken up in general sessions of the convention and in a special transportation group meeting to be held on May 21. Many current economic problems will be discussed at the convention, including some that are international as well as domestic in scope. Among the more important topics, as shown in the program, are the following: "The European Situation;" "America's Commercial Treaty Policy;""The Merchant Marine;" "Agriculture," and "Congress and the American Public." Speakers will include, among the higher Government officials, Secretary of Commerce Hoover, Secretary of Agriculture Jardine and Chairman Palmer of the Shipping Board. Leading business men also will discuss the subjects selected. "At the transportation group session," says a statement from the chamber's headquarters, "special attention will be given to discussion from the floor of the outstanding transportation problems which will be presented by leaders in this field. Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific System, will outline the most important current developments in the railway field, and measures for increasing the efficiency of the country's transportation system. W. D. B. Ainey, president of the National Association of Railroad and Utility Commissioners, will present the subject of "Regulation of Motor Carriers in Interstate Commerce," and the question of "Metropolitan Traffic Problems and how Chambers of Commerce can assist in their Solution" will be discussed by Elmer Stevens, chairman of the City Traffic Committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce. (Ch. of Commerce of U.S. press statement, Apr. 21.)

Milling Investigation

The Northwestern Miller for April 15 says: "Supplementary to the visits recently paid to mills by its field agents, the Federal Trade Commission is now sending to millers a questionnaire covering a vast amount of detailed data of mill operation for the years 1923 and 1924. The form for reply is accompanied by a courteous letter inviting the cooperation of millers to whom it is sent, the whole being in the nature of a request rather than, as in the case of the visits of the commission's agents, a demand for compliance. There can be no objection to millers, if they feel so disposed, giving to the commission the data for which it asks. Probably few, if any, could reply in detail to the mass of questions propounded in the form submitted. Furthermore, it does not appear that any useful purpose, either to the Senate, which ordered the commission's investigation, or to the industry itself, will be accomplished by the compilation of such complicated data. Averages of such items as 'life insurance premiums paid,' 'self-rising ingredients used,' 'waterpower rights,' and 'memberships in exchanges' can not possibly have commercial or economic value, and the assembling of them must be regarded as sheer waste of effort. The fundamental objection to the entire study of flour milling now being made by the Federal Trade Commission is that it is in no sense intended to be constructive or helpful. On the contrary, it is being conducted in the spirit of enmity expressed in the La Follette resolution of authority, which ordered investigation of 'the extent and methods of price fixing, price maintenance, and price discrimination; the developments in the direction of monopoly and concentration of control in the milling and baking industries, and all evidence indicating the existence of agreements,

conspiracies, or combinations in restraint of trade.' None of these charges by inference apply in the slightest degree to flour milling or to baking. Each of them is so obviously untrue that no defense is required. Since, therefore, milling is being 'investigated' on maliciously false charges, members of the industry can hardly be blamed if they fail of enthusiasm in assisting the commission to compile its data. They have, indeed, no reason in former experience to believe the commission will be fair in its summaries and interpretation of whatever body of facts may be voluntarily given to it. Having been instructed to find a 'conspiracy' it may declare one in denial of the evidence collected."

Producers' and Consumers' Prices

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for April 18 says: "If consumers everywhere will put themselves in the position of the producers, and if producers will put themselves in the position of consumers, we shall get fairer estimates all round. Wheat and wool afford good illustrations. The wheat growers of the United States and the wool growers of Australasia have had hard and lean years since the war. Now prices are high and crops of wheat and wool are good. What is now coming to these wheat and wool growers seems not a whit more than they have the right to expect. But consider the position of the chief importing country, Great Britain. The annual report of the international trade of Great Britain for the year 1924 shows an excess of imports of goods over exports of 345,000,000 pounds sterling. In 1923 it was only 212,000,000. The increase in the adverse balance was 133,000,000 pounds sterling, at par nearly $650,000,000. This was due to some extent to increases in quantities; it was due still more to increases in prices. In 1923 the imports of wheat and wool cost 102,000,000 pounds, in 1924 these imports cost 142,000,000. Forty million pounds sterling is not far from $200,000,000. It is that sum of money, with more, that makes for the present good feeling of the wheat grower in the United States and the wool grower in Australasia. But that sum of money is no small burden at this time in Great Britain. It means that every loaf of bread is dearer, every woolen garment more costly. There is still widespread unemployment -- the wage scale is unchanged. Much of the imported wool is reexported as finished goods. At the higher price the foreign buyer may buy less. For a staple foodstuff or a basic raw material to rise in price fifty per cent in a season places a terrific burden upon the adaptation of consumer classes everywhere. We complained last year that the prices of many of our agricultural products were out of the ratio downward; the consumers in Great Britain complain now that wheat and wool prices are out of the ratio upward. Sudden price changes make readjustments difficult. For both consumer and producer fair and stabilized prices are better than feast prices one year and famine prices the next. And in the long run neither class gains from wide fluctuations in prices."

Steel Corporation Contributes to Boll Weevil Fund

The United States Steel Corporation has contributed $25,000 to the campaign for the control of the boll weevil which is being carried on by the American Cotton Association, it was announced yesterday. This makes a total of $75,000 in annual contributions which the Steel Corporation has subscribed since the movement started in 1923.

Trade Ambassador Promised

The press of April 20 states that Secretary Hoover is preparing to send a trade ambassador to London. Plans are virtually completed by the Commerce Department, it was learned April 19, to install in England a foreign representative of the department who would occupy nearly the same position in matters of trade affecting the United States and Great Britain as the American Ambassador does in the political field. Announcement of the appointment is expected shortly.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 20: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.50 for the top and $12.10 to $12.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.60 to $11.10; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $11; feeder steers $5.50 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $11. Fat lambs $12.75 to $14.75; feeding lambs $13.25 to $14.50; yearlings $9 to $11.75; fat ewes $6 to $9.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes 75¢ to $1.50 lower in city markets at $6.25 to $6.75 per barrel, top of $7 in Chicago and Pittsburgh; $1 lower in the Hastings section at $5 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage 25¢ to 50¢ lower at $1.50 to $2.25 per barrel crate. Texas yellow Bermuda onions, commercial pack 50 to $1.00 lower in consuming centers, ranging $1.50 to $2.00 per crate; 25¢ to 30¢ lower at Laredo at $1 to $1.10 f.o.b. North Carolina strawberries, Missionarys and Klondikes, slightly weaker in New York at 35¢ to 38¢ quart basis; $8.50 to $9.00 per 32-quart crate f.o.b. Chadbourn. Florida fancy tomatoes 50 to 75¢ lower at $5 to $6 per six-basket carrier, original pack. Georgia and South Carolina asparagus, green, large sizes declined to $3 to $4 per dozen bunch crate in eastern markets.

Grain prices quoted April 20: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.47 to $1.78. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.79 to $1.88; Kansas City $1.57 to $1.67. No. 3 hard winter Chicago $1.49 1/4; No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.54; Kansas City $1.42 to $1.55. No. 2 mixed corn Chicago $1.09 7/8; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.00 1/2 to $1.02 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 1/4 to $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.10. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.10 to $1.11 1/2; Minneapolis $1.03 1/2 to $1.05 1/2; St. Louis $1.08 1/2 to $1.09. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.10; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.03 3/4 to $1.05 1/4; St. Louis $1.08. No. 3 white oats Chicago 39 to 42 1/4¢; Minneapolis 39 1/2 to 40¢; St. Louis 44 1/2 to 45 1/2¢; Kansas City 45¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45 1/2¢; Chicago 44 1/2¢; Philadelphia 46 1/2¢; Boston office closed.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 5 points, closing at 25.05¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 1 point, closing at 24.66¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 20	Apr. 18	Apr. 19, 1924
20 Industrials	121.23	122.02	91.13
20 R.R. stocks	96.31	96.64	81.55

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 21.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

'ol.XVII, No. 19 Section 1 April 22, 1925

DAIRY DUTIES Hearings on the advisability of increasing the duties on butter imports were begun April 21 before the Tariff Commission at the instance of American producers. Evidence was offered intended to show that producers of Denmark and other countries are able to sell butter in the United States at price less than that at which Americans can offer it at fair profit. The American producers contended that Tariff Commission investigators had found that Denmark could produce butter from 12 to 16 cents a pound cheaper than it could be produced in the United States, and that this finding justified a recommendation that the President invoke the flexible provisions of the tariff law and increase the duty. The present tariff is 8 cents per pound, and the Americans want it increased to 12 cents, which would be the 50 per cent maximum increase permitted. Denmark, considered the chief competitor for high-grade butter, was represented at the hearing by Soren Sorensen, agricultural adviser to the Danish Legation at Washington. (Press, Apr. 22)

NORTHERN PACIFIC ROAD LANDS The Northern Pacific Railway Company has received $136,000,000 from the sale of lands already granted to it by the Government to cover the cost of constructing the railroad, D. F. McGowan, attorney for the Forest Service, testified April 21 before the Congressional committee investigating the company's land grants. This amount, he said, was exclusive of the value of lands still claimed by the company. Cost of building the railroad was placed by the witness at approximately $70,000,000. The company has failed, he said, to carry out all provisions of its contract with the Government, but in presenting a claim for additional acreage it has asked the Government to comply "100 per cent" with its part of the contract. Representative Raker of California submitted several documents which he said would show that the present railway company in 1908 joined with the Western Union Telegraph Company in a suit and contended that it was not bound by all of the provisions in the charter of its predecessor, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. (Press, Apr. 22.)

BOLL WEEVIL CAMPAIGN A New York press dispatch to-day states that the American Cotton Association made public yesterday a letter from Mayor Hylan expressing sympathy with the work of the association and urging the city to support the campaign to raise funds to combat the boll weevil in the South.

PRESIDENT UNCHANGED ON RUSSIAN POLICY President Coolidge April 21 confirmed reports that Secretary Kellogg had informed American diplomats abroad that this Government's attitude relative to the recognition of Russia had not changed. (Press, Apr. 22)

SUGAR MERGER REPORTED The New York press to-day states that negotiations are under way which may culminate in the consolidation of several Cuban sugar properties, according to reports in the financial district yesterday.

Section 2

Canada's Farm Loan Proposals

An editorial in The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for April 15 says: "The final report of Dr. H. M. Tory, who has been investigating farm loan systems for the Minister of Finance, contains detailed recommendations which are in line with proposals which The Guide has repeatedly advanced. Dr. Tory emphasizes the very evident advantage to the country at large, to the urban community as well as the rural, in establishing permanent prosperity on the farms. He found a unanimous opinion among business men East and West, that no commercial business, unless it be a monopoly, would prosper on rates of interest for current credit such as the majority of western farmers are paying. After considering the various farm loan systems in Canada, the United States and other countries, Dr. Tory recommends as most suitable to this country a system based upon cooperation between the Federal and Provincial Governments. The function of the Federal Government in the system will be to use the national credit to raise the necessary funds, thus securing the lowest possible rate of interest. It is not proposed that the Federal Government shall administer the loaning system. That is to be exclusively the function of the Provincial Governments. The Federal Government is to raise the money and turn it over to the Provincial Governments upon a clearly defined basis of security, and the Provincial system is to be subject to some reasonable regulation and supervision by the Federal authorities. Under the system proposed by Dr. Tory it would be optional for any province to undertake a farm loan system in cooperation with the Federal Government. Already Manitoba and Saskatchewan are operating such systems but have been handicapped somewhat by the lack of available loaning funds at an attractive rate of interest. Alberta has similar legislation which has not been put into operation If the Federal Government accepts Dr. Tory's recommendations the necessary legislation could be enacted at the present session of Parliament."

Eggs to Argentina

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of April 21 states that the Minnesota Cooperative Egg and Poultry Exchange, a farmer-owned concern, has contracted to deliver five carloands of eggs to Buenos Aires. This is the first large order received from South America since the exchange was established.

Farm Rail Rates

What amounted to a notice by western railroads that they would resist any further reductions in freight rates on farm commodities was served on the Interstate Commerce Commission April 20. The railroads referred to the receivership of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line as the largest the country has ever known from the standpoint of mileage and value of property involved, and made this declaration: "The situation of other carriers in this district is desperate. In spite of the most rigid economies of operation, they have been faced with a diminishing net railway operating income, while there has been no tendency on the part of governmental authority to reduce the tax burden or to be less stringent in respect to required expenditures for safety of operation." These statements were contained in a joint brief filed with the commission by carriers operating west of the Mississippi River. It was their contribution to an inquiry begun recently by the commission under the Smith-Hoch resolution of Congress, which directed the commission to make a scientific study of the rate structure of the country to ascertain whether readjustments could not be made with the purpose of lowering the

freight charges on farm commodities.

Railroad proposals to increase rates on horses and mules moving into and out of Texas and Southwestern territory were temporarily set aside April 20 by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The schedules were filed to go into effect April 20 and the commission suspended them to August 15 to await investigation. To illustrate the increase proposed by the new schedule, the commission said that the present rate on horses and mules from Wichita, Kans., to El Paso, Texas, was 77 cents a hundred pounds, while the proposed rate would be $1.07. Present charges from El Paso to Fort Worth, Texas, are 54 cents a hundred and the new schedules would have increased the rate to $1.01.

Georgia Farmers

An Atlanta dispatch to the press of April 21 states that five hundred new farmers -- most of them tobacco farmers from North and South Carolina -- settled in Georgia last year, largely through the Georgia Association's advertising and land settlement program, according to F. H. Abbott, secretary of the Georgia body.

Packer Rates

Sweeping changes in the rate structure covering packing house products are being contemplated by the packers, it became known Tuesday. According to information obtained at Washington April 20, Armour & Co. of Chicago will soon file with the Interstate Commerce Commission a complaint against all of the transcontinental carriers for a downward revision of rates on products manufactured by them. The complaint, it is understood, is to be filed with the commission's pending rate structure investigation and is being designed to show wholesale violations of the law under the so-called Hoch-Smith resolution. (Press, Apr. 21.)

Production

The Idaho Farmer for April 16 says: "The warning issued by Secretary Jardine of the Department of Agriculture that general expansion of production on the part of farmers would not be to their advantage is auspicious. It is in direct contrast to the advice of the department a few years ago, when increased production was generally looked upon as the surest means of increasing income. The necessities arising out of the war resulted not only in advice on the part of the department to increase production, but in the establishment of a general habit among the farmers of producing more and more, a habit that has been hard to break. The depression into which agriculture fell was not due alone to overproduction, but unquestionably this contributed heavily to the general unhappy result. Even now, the surplus in some lines is just disappearing after several years of low prices. Production can never be controlled successfully by definite agreement among the farmers, but close watch of conditions and more widespread recognition of the fact that the old law of supply and demand is the most nearly inexorable of all agencies influencing general price levels will inevitably tend toward regulation of production. But it is not sufficient that the Department ofAgriculture warn against overproduction. A greater opportunity lies in the working out of a plan whereby the farmers may be well informed as to the probable supply and the probable demand for the various crops which they may produce. True, this service is being rendered with a fair degree of efficiency now in the department's statistical work, but every effort to make the service more comprehensive and more readily available to every farmer should be made. This being done, the farmers owe a duty to the department and to themselves, namely, the

making of a conscientious effort to apply the information secured with a view to producing just the necessary amounts of the respective crops or livestock products to supply the demand at reasonable prices to both producer and consumer. But let every farmer remember this: (1) He should produce as much of his family living on the farm as possible; (2) even though he wisely control his own individual production, he should strive constantly to increase his production per unit -- that is, per acre, per cow, per sheep, per hen and so on. These things will reduce the cost of farm maintenance and the cost of production, and reduction of cost is as vital to the success of the farm as is increased revenue."

Wheat Acreage

The Wall St. Journal for April 20 says: "All wheat markets continue to be nervous and erratic. On Thursday of last week the Chicago market closed with a net loss of 6 3/4 cents a bushel in the May future, and on the next day closed with an advance of 6 1/2 cents in the same future contract. Such sensational fluctuations above and below a pivotal point show at least confusion of thought in regard to the world outlook. A leading newspaper, explaining this up and down movement, attributes it to news that the world acreage of winter wheat is 3 per cent larger than that of last year. This is rather like looking for eggs in a last year's bird's nest, because the estimated world acreage was given out weeks ago by the Department of Agriculture and in no event could it account for the rallies following declines. But if we get the facts straight an approximately correct judgment might be formed as to the future outlook of the winter wheat crop. The estimated increase of 3 per cent in winter wheat seeding was for the United States, Canada, India, Morocco and 13 countries of Europe, exclusive of Russia. The total was 127,000,000 acres compared with 123,000,000 last year, and it comprised 65.8 per cent of the total wheat area of the Northern Hemisphere. As the Department of Agriculture has pointed out, the European winter wheat acreage is one-half of one per cent larger than last year. Under average conditions the European winter wheat crop could not be more than 1 per cent larger than last year. India is harvesting now, and it is known that drought has cut the expected yield. Morocco, which is a small producer, has an average condition to date. Canada raises so little winter wheat that it has small weight. The United States, with its 42,000,000 acres of winter wheat, is the producer of prime importance. In an analysis of the official crop report as of April 1, it was shown in this newspaper that the Department of Agriculture does not estimate abandoned acreage until May, but makes its April 1 estimate on the assumption that only the average abandonment is to be expected. This newspaper then estimated that instead of the usual abandonment of 10 per cent, it would probably be 18 per cent this year, or about 7,500,000 acres. Late last week one of the leading crop experts of the country estimated the abandonment of 20 per cent, or over 8,000,000 acres. If this proves to be correct, the world acreage of winter wheat instead of being 4,000,000 acres larger than last year is 4,000,000 less, and the crop of the United States 100,000,000 bushels under last year. The next question is whether the spring wheat can offset this loss. That is a matter too far in the future to be foreseen."

Tobacco in Germany

The German Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has recently presented a bill to the Commonwealth Council increasing the import duties on unmanufactured tobacco from 30 marks to 80 marks per 100 kilograms, or about 5.3¢ per pound, reports Trade Commissioner Goldsmith to the Department of Commerce. (Press, Apr. 21.)

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

In its series of editorials on the Forest Service, The Outlook, in its issue for April 22 says: "A national forest is a crop. A national park is a combination of playground, school, and museum. The purpose of a national forest is economic. The purpose of a national park is recreative. The function of a national forest is primarily to supply man with certain things. The function of a national park is to invigorate the body and mind of man himself. It is true that incidentally the national forest affords to many thousands an opportunity for recreation. It is also true that in the national parks there are sources of water, for example, which as it flows out serves human needs. Essentially, however, the national forests and the national parks are different in purpose and function, and they should be correspondingly different in administration. The care of the forests has, therefore, been wisely intrusted to one bureau, and the care of the parks to another. ... The points of view of the two bureaus are so different that it is not surprising that each regards the other as in some sense a rival. When, for example, the same region might serve either as a forest for raising a crop or as a park for the delectation of the mind and soul of man, it is not easy to reconcile the one service to the economic waste of keeping the resources there undeveloped or the other service to the devastation that would be wrought by the hand of the exploiter. Experience teaches that when economic pressure opposes demand for the beautiful the danger of error is greater from the economic than from the aesthetic side. In power and influence the National Park Service is one of the minor bureaus in the Government, while the Forest Service is unsurpassed and probably unequaled by any. Powerful interests like those of organized lumbermen, stockmen, and water-power users can work in partnership with the Forest Service, but they have no reason to support the true policy of the National Park Service and not infrequently have occasion to oppose it and try to break it down. There are many Americans who do not realize the essential difference between the Forest Service and the Park Service. It is important that the distinction between these two services should be kept clear in law and in practice. And to this end it is important that the distinction be kept clear between them in the public mind. The main business, therefore, of the Forest Service is to preserve and develop and regulate the use of the resources within the territory under its control. These forests were not set aside as playgrounds. They were set aside because, to use the words of the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, addressed to the Chief of the Forest Service when it was first established twenty years ago, 'the continued prosperity of the agricultural, lumbering, mining, and livestock interests is directly dependent upon a permanent and accessible supply of water, wood, and forage, as well as upon the present and future use of these resources under businesslike regulations enforced with promptness, effectiveness, and common sense.' In a pamphlet written by Herbert A. Smith, Assistant Forester, and issued by the Forest Service, it is declared that these principles 'have never been changed;' and that 'to the extent that they have been faithfully carried out, the Forest Service has been successful,' That pamphlet concludes with emphasis on the fact that as a unit in the Department of Agriculture the Forest Service has applied 'the methods and spirit of agricultural science (of which forestry is a part).' And another pamphlet issued by the service and written by the same hand re-emphasizes this by stating at the start: 'The chief forest work of the Government

is in charge of the United States Department of Agriculture. This is because the science of forestry is essentially a branch of agriculture, for it has to do with the growing of successive crops of timber from the soil. For the Forest Service to become a director or determiner of a national policy of recreation is to go outside of its function. It is true that millions of people use the forests for recreative purposes, and it is right that they should do so, so far as they do not interfere with the true function of the national forest in the raising of timber crops and the preservation of the resources within the limits of the forests. But it is not the business of the Forest Service to decide recreation policies, and it should not encroach upon the function of those whose chief concern is to provide and preserve regions that are exclusively for the building up of the mind and body of people."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 21: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.50 for the top; bulk of sales $12.20 to $12.45; medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $11; feeder steers $5.50 to $8.50; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $11; fat lambs $12.50 to $14.50; feeding lambs $13 to $14.25; yearlings $8.75 to $11.50; fat ewes $5.75 to $8.75.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes brought $6 to $6.50 per barrel in leading city markets, top of $6.75 to $7.00 in Pittsburgh and Chicago. Florida fancy tomatoes, original pack mostly $5 to $6 per six-basket carrier. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions, commercial pack, ranged $1.50 to $2.00 per crate in consuming centers; $1.15 to $1.20 f.o.b. Laredo. Wakefield cabbage from South Carolina closed at $1.50 to $1.75 per barrel crate in New York, mostly $2 to $2.25 in other city markets. Various varieties of North Carolina strawberries sold at 25¢ to 50¢/qt. basis in eastern markets; $7.25 to $7.75 per 32-qt. crate in growers at Chadbourn.

Grain prices quoted April 21: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.44 to $1.75. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.85; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.68. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.53; St.Louis $1.52 1/2 to $1.54; Kansas City $1.49 to $1.55. No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.06 1/4 to $1.07 1/4; Minneapolis 99 1/2 to $1.01 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.15; Kansas City $1.10. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.11 1/2 to $1.12 3/4; Minneapolis $1.02 1/2 to $1.04 1/2; St.Louis $1.07. No.3 white corn Chicago $1.07 to $1.10; St.Louis $1.08; No.2 white corn Kansas City $1.08. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/4 to 43¢; Minneapolis 39 3/8 to 49 7/8; St.Louis 44 1/2 to 45¢; Kansas City 44 1/2 to 45¢.

Middling spot cotton in 8 designated spot markets declined 30 points, closing at 24.75¢ per lb. (Holiday in Houston and Galveston Markets). New York May future contracts declined 18 points, closing at 24.48¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 21	Apr. 20	Apr. 21, 1924
20 Industrials	119.53	121.23	89.18
20 R.R. stocks	95.09	96.31	81.13

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 22.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 20 Section 1 April 23, 1925

LOWDEN ON FARM FAILURES A New York dispatch to the press of April 23 says: "A gloomy picture of the plight of the American farmer, which, he said, could be alleviated only by effective organization, was painted last night by Frank O. Lowden, former Governor of Illinois, before the annual banque of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. 'Our agriculture is decaying,' he said. 'Farm bankruptcies in recent years have increased more than 600 per cent, according to the Department of Agriculture. The average farmer could have obtained a larger income since 1920 if he had hired himself out. In considerable portions of the agricultural areas farms can not be sold for the value of the improvements alone Optimistic reports and the juggling of index numbers to indicate improvement in farm ers' finances are misleading, Mr. Lowden asserted, and tend only to put off the day when adequate remedies will be found. Solution of the farmer's troubles, he said, is vital to the welfare of the country at large as well as to the farmers themselves. The true solution, he asserted, is a national organization whereby the farmer can sel his products in the organized markets on terms of full equality in knowledge and power. Under present conditions the farmer sells in competition with other farmers i a market that largely controls prices because of its own organizations."

DENMARK PROTESTS BUTTER COST REPORT Comparison of cost of producing butter in this country and Denmark, as made by the Tariff Commission's investigators, was attacked as unfair to Denmark in testimony given the commission April 22 by Soren Sorensen, adviser to the Danish Legation at Washington. The hearings were called to consider the application of American producers for an increase of 50 per cent in the butter tariff, or from 8 to 12 cents a pound. Mr. Sorensen contended the cost figures compiled by the commission's representatives for 1923-1924 were made at a time when the Exchange rate was unfair to Denmark and that, instead of producing butter for 12 cents less per pound than American producers the Danish producers have an actual advantage of only 6 cents. (Press, Apr. 23.)

ECONOMICS SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPROVED An Augusta, Ga., dispatch to the press of April 23 states that the establishment of a foundation fund for scholarships in economics at the prinicpal colleges of the country in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Bankers' Association was approved by the executive council of the organization April 22 at its spring meeting at Augusta. The minimum fund would be $50,000, to be raised by voluntary subscriptions from members of the association, under the plan presented by Frank H. Sisson, of New York, and unanimously voted by the council. Extension of the foundation to cover research work is contemplated also, Mr. Sisson said. Two subscriptions of $500 each were announced.

SAPIRO SUES FORD A Detroit dispatch to the press of April 23 states that damages of $1,000,000 were asked by Aaron Sapiro in a suit filed in United States District Court at Detroit, April 22, against Henry Ford and the Dearborn Publishing Company, which he owns. Sapiro's suit charges that certain articles printed in The Dearborn Independent, a weekly newspaper published by Ford, have injured him as an attorney.

Section 2

Agricultural Schools

An editorial in New England Homestead for April 11 says: "Much is being said to the effect that Harvard University proposes to set up an agricultural school. President Lowell advises us that there is 'no danger' of it. New England is well equipped with agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Under the Purnell bill these institutions, one in each of the 48 States will now receive additional income that in a few years will be equivalent to an endowment of almost $100,000,000 from the Federal Treasury, especially to promote better methods of marketing. This fund should enable our New England stations to greatly increase their work, especially in demonstrating and helping farmers to cooperate. The fly in the ointment is that for each dollar of such 'Federal aid,' New England pays many dollars in taxes to Uncle Sam."

Agriculture in the Northwest

An editorial in The Washington Post for April 22 says: "The situation in the agricultural States of the Northwest is excellent, if one may judge by the report issued last week by the Federal Reserve bank. Among other things, the investigation finds a 27 per cent monetary increase over last spring in the volume of business and a 45 per cent increase in the estimated value of 'prospective business,' which means the profits from the coming harvest. Retail business shows an increase of 5 per cent; commercial paper, representing outstanding loans by the banks to merchants, instead of revealing the customary increase of 2 per cent at this time of year, shows an actual decrease of 16 per cent. The Federal Reserve bank does not hesitate to ascribe this favorable situation to 'the much higher level of the prices of agricultural products.' If, as the St. Paul Pioneer Press observes, any proof were needed that the steady prosperity of business is dependent upon fair and reasonable prices for farm products, here it is. The state of agriculture is still the barometer of the Nation, and in the last analysis business will conform to it and the degree of stabilization be governed by it. But if the farmer must have fair profits and the reasonable anticipation of a surplus upon which to rely during the lean months, it follows no less surely that he must learn to regulate his affairs in a businesslike fashion. He must curb his desire to fall back upon the Government for continual subsidies, which it could not and would not grant to other industries. He must learn to check his tendency to overreach himself by resorting to loans which he can not pay off. He must come to look upon the Government relief as a scientific cooperation, designed not to tide him along by artificial aid, but to supply the needed marketing opportunities, and thus place him on a par with the business man and the manufacturer."

British Production

It is generally thought that the year 1924 was one of little production and unsatisfactory profits in Great Britain but a study just completed by one of the staff of the London Times and just received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its British information service, shows that certain of the textile industries, especially artificial silk, the cycle and motorcycle industry and the two most heavily taxed of all trades, brewing and tobacco, had a very prosperous year. The cotton textile industries, shipping, so far at least, as the liner companies are concerned, which have a fairly regular trade and are proverbial for conservatism in finance, the oil and petroleum and boot and shoe companies had a fairly prosperous year. The motor industry, genera

retail trading, and rubber plantation companies earned "average" profit while the coal, iron and steel, engineering and railway transport lines all had a less profitable year in 1924 than in 1923 and therefore are rated as having passed through a period of serious depression.

Chilean Nitrate Plant

The New York Times of April 22 states that E. A. Cappelen Smith, president of the Anglo-Chilean Consolidated Nitrate Corporation, who recently was made a partner in the firm of Guggenheim Brothers, has just returned from Chile, where he made a tour of inspection of the company's properties. The Anglo-Chilean Nitrate and Railway Company, the contract for the purchase of which was signed in London earlier in the year, actually was taken over by the new company of which Mr. Smith is the head during his visit. All of the properties are now being operated by the new company, which is controlled by the Guggenheim interests. Commenting on his visit, Mr. Smith said: "Construction of the new company's plant is proceeding actively and should be finished in about a year and a half. The plant will be built to produce nitrate using a new Guggenheim process, according to which a much greater percentage of the nitrate contained in the ground can be recovered. A material reduction in the cost of operation also is expected. This plant will have a capacity of 350,000 tons of nitrate per year. It will be equipped with all the latest improvements for mechanical handling, whereas the present method of operating is based almost entirely on hand labor."

Cooperation

An editorial in The Rural New-Yorker for April 18 says: "The latest thing in farm bureau service is reported from Illinois. 'A new type of cooperation has just been entered into by 240 farmers in four Illinois counties who have banded together in order that they might employ a trained man to assist them in keeping farm accounts and putting their farm operations on a more efficient and profitable basis. Most of the cost connected with the service will be met by the 240 farmers themselves and in this respect the organization is one of its kind. The total cost will be about $25 a member a year and in order that the work may be given ample opportunity to succeed, each of the 240 members has signed up for three years.' It seems to us that ultimately some such plan will take the place of the present farm bureau system. It seems quite evident that, as now managed, only a comparatively small percentage of actual farmers are interested enough to pay anything for the service. It seems better in every way for those who are interested to come together and pay a fair price for what a trained expert can give them. We take that to be far more businesslike than for all to be taxed to pay for a service which only a small group make full use of."

Cooperatives in Oklahoma

An editorial in The Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman for April 15 says: "About $4,000,000 has been paid out within the last few weeks to members of the cotton and wheat associations in Oklahoma as another payment on the sale price of the crops which they delivered to their associations. Each member got an advance when he delivered last fall, and also got a payment in January. About 20,000 farmers are involved in the present payments, or an average of about $200 per man. This money will now be available for trade in the stores and will be used by the farmer for the making of his crop. It would be interesting to know how many cotton and wheat farmers who sold their crops on the open market last fall still have any of the money left to make the new crop on, and

how many are having to borrow at the bank. It's pretty certain that th association members who have just received a payment are not borrowing.

Cotton in West Texas

V. H. Schoffelmeyer, agricultural editor of The Dallas News, writing in Commerce and Finance for April 22, says: "The greatest poter tial cotton-raising empire of the United States, and possibly of the world, probably is that vast territory known as West Texas, which last year produced some 1,800,000 bales of cotton without half trying and some day is liable to produce 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 bales once the farmers master the technique of cotton-raising out there. All the hue and cry about foreign cotton production in India, Egypt, or Australia and South America has little chance to compete with West Texas for the mere reason that West Texas is settled with cotton growers who have com from cotton-raising sections of Texas and other Southern States and whc know their business. It is something entirely different to introduce cotton into a foreign country and depend upon coolie labor for its development. Foreign countries to a large extent have no cotton tradition, no equipment to be compared with that of a State like Texas, all of which militates against the rapid expansion of cotton raising in mos foreign countries not now large cotton producers. In the term West Texas usually Northwest Texas is included, which means the great Panhandle or Plains region and all of the 'breaks' country below the 'caprock' or rim of the high plains. All of this area, as large as Indiana, is undergoing rapid change from ranching to farming and cotton holds the most important place at present. The reason for this is not hard t find. Cotton does not require as much rainfall as is generally believe It will thrive with 25 inches annually, provided most of this falls during the growing season, which is the case in West and Northwest Texa in normal years. ... West Texas is on its way to becoming the greatest cotton-raising empire in the whole world, perhaps. It has the climate, the area, the right kind of people and the farsightedness of its settle insures ultimate success. As the country becomes more settled, scientists say, the weather conditions change. Where fields are made to store more moisture there will be more moisture to go back into the atmosphere and return as rain to the land. All this may be theory, but it seems to be working out in West Texas. It would be a bold man who would declare that the balance of cotton production always will be on the eastern side of the Cotton Belt when it is patent that the extensio of cotton-raising is proceeding westward at amazing pace."

Dairy Industry

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for April 25 says: "The continued strength of the dairy industry has been one of the most remarkable events in all agriculture during the past few years. Dairying is almost the only branch of agriculture that has been consistently prosperous throughout the depression. It has maintained this position, too, during the most tremendous expansion in its history. Not only has it expanded in the old established dairy States but it has spread out through the Corn Belt, the Wheat Belt and to a considerable extent ever into the cotton-growing regions. Yet, despite the constantly increasin volume of dairy products, prices have been maintained remarkably well. It is true that butter prices have been disappointing during recent months, but careful observers believe that a rise to former profit levels is likely to occur. The secret of the generally good prices, of course, has been a constantly growing consumer demand, which, according

to United States Government statistics, amounted to a per capita increas in yearly milk consumption from 43 gallons in 1920 to 53 gallons in 1923 During the same period butter consumption increased from 14.7 pounds to 17 pounds per person; ice cream from 2.46 gallons to 2.68 gallons, and cheese from 3.51 pounds to 3.91 pounds. These are rather remarkable increases for so short a time -- particularly in view of the previous slow growth in the use of milk. M. O. Maughan, secretaty of the National Dairy Council, points out that in 1890 the annual consumption of milk pe person was only 22 gallons, that the increase during the succeeding nine years amounted to only one gallon. Obviously the educational work done by such agencies as the National Dairy Council, the various milk producers' associations and the milk distributors is bearing fruit. But back of all the publicity has been the improvement in the quality of dairy products. The public now knows that milk is clean, wholesome and free from disease germs. When a housewife buys a bittle of Grade A milk she knows exactly what it will contain. Milk has been standardized. In the same way creamery butter is almost uniformly good and consumers have con fidence in trade brands of the big cooperative producers. The dairy interests of the country have accomplished much for themselves through their great cooperatives, but the most effective work they have done has been in establishing public confidence by means of a high-grade standard ized product. Without high standards and genuine quality all the educational work would have been utterly wasted. Herein lies a large nubbin of truth, to which other producers of farm products should give deep and careful consideration."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Western Highways Builder for April says: "The average engineering contractor is a wastrel and a prodigal whose eventu demise is to be confidently expected and whose survival from year to yea is only by the grace of the gods of fortune, if recent studies of earthwork operation conducted by the Bureau of Public Roads are to be taken seriously. The meticulous investigations and profound conclusions of th bureau engineers have revealed, among other things, that 100 of the 180 seconds required to load, turn and dump wheelers on an average job repre sents unprevented preventable delay, an instance of the alleged bad management which is responsible, it is said, for a high percentage of contractor mortality. Engineer and contractor alike recognize earthwork as not only the biggest item entering into construction but one of the most hazardous as well. It is an unknown quantity, the operation of which is facilitated or impeded by weather, wind and kindred acts of God, as well as other forces beyond the control of the contractor. It is one matter to find waste, and not a difficult matter at all where earthwork is concerned; it is another to present practical methods of eliminating delay. As proof of this witness the fact that whenever the engineer plunges int contracting, he generally comes a cropper. If I didn't have a Spartan faith in the unimpeachable integrity of the Bureau of Public Roads, I would be inclined to look upon these time and cost studies as inspired propaganda to support the surety companies' absurd defense of wholly unwarranted and indecently high surety rates."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 22: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.45 for the top and $12.20 to $12.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.65 to $8.65; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $11; fat lambs $12.50 to $14.75; feeding lambs $13 to $14.25; yearlings $8.75 to $11.50; and fat ewes $5.75 to $8.75.

New York sacked Round White potatoes mostly $1.05 to $1.15 per 100 pounds in the East, with Northern stock 75¢ to 90¢ on the Chicago carlot market. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions about 25¢ lower at $1.65 + $2.00 per crate in leading markets; $1.15 to $1.20 f.o.b. Laredo. Sou Carolina Wakefield cabbage steady in New York and weaker in other markets with general jobbing range of $1.50 to $2.00 per barrel crate. Various varieties of North Carolina strawberries brought $8.50 to $9.0 per 32-quart crate and 20¢ to 28¢ quart basis in eastern markets; $7.2 to $7.75 per 32-quart crate, cash to growers at Chadbourn. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, generally lower, best stock bringing $5 to $5.5 per six-basket carrier for original pack and $6.50 to $7.00 for repacked in Chicago.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 46¢; Chicago 44 3/4¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 46 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted April 22: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.48 1/4 to $1.79 1/4. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.84; Kansas City $1.68. No. 3 red winter Chicago $1.72 1/2. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.47 to $1.55; No. 4 hard winter Chicago $1.53 1/4. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.06; Minneapolis 99 1/2 to $1.01 1/2. No. 2 yellow cor Chicago $1.13 1/4 to $1.14 1/2; Kansas City $1.09 1/2 to $1.10. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.11 to $1.11 1/2; Minneapolis $1.02 1/2 to $1.04 1/2; No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.08; St. Louis $1.10 to $1.1 No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.06 to $1.08 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 38 1/2 to 44¢; Minneapolis 39 7/8 to 40 3/8¢; St. Louis 45 to 45 1/2¢; Kansas City 44 1/2 to 45¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 16 points, closing at 24.91¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 6 points, closing at 24.54¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads.

Average closing price	Apr. 22	Apr. 21	Apr. 22, 192-
20 Industrials	120.52	119.53	89.22
20 R.R. stocks	95.61	95.09	81.20

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 23.)

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